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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 12 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Shepherd, thank You for providing for the needs of this land we love.

Lord, You continue to renew the strength of our leaders as You guide them in the right paths. Show our Senators how to navigate through the deepest darkness with the illumination of Your divine presence. Lord, deliver them from fear of what the future holds as they recall how You have saved us in the past.

As we approach the anniversary of January 6, we pray for Your sovereignty to guard our country. Continue to sustain us all with Your goodness and love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne A.

Witkowsky, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I get into my remarks, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote on the Sanchez nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. President, for the information of Senators, we expect to have this vote later today. Obviously, the delay in getting here because of the snow has forced us to postpone it until later in the day.

REMEMBERING HARRY REID

Mr. President, first, let me wish you and all of my colleagues a happy and healthy new year. I hope everyone traveling across the country remains safe in the face of these recent winter storms.

This morning, let me begin with a few words on the loss of our dear friend, our beloved former leader, and one of the brightest stars to ever serve in the U.S. Senate, our former colleague Harry Reid of Searchlight, NV, as he would proudly refer to himself.

Harry Reid, in short, was one of the most incredible individuals I have ever met, the sort of person you come across only a handful of times in your life. He was tough as nails, a fighter to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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his core, but also one of the most compassionate individuals you could imagine.

To lose Harry Reid is like losing track of the North Star. There are many in this Chamber who got to where they are because of him.

Next Wednesday, January 12, Harry will make his final return to the U.S. Capitol, where he will lie in state under the Rotunda. As we honor his life and legacy, I will have more to say in the coming days. But for now, I can only say that Harry was my leader, my mentor, and one of my dearest friends.

When you lose someone who is as close to us as Harry was, they are never truly gone. They will always stay with us. As we gavel in today, I take comfort knowing that Harry is with us in spirit, walking alongside us as we continue the work he dedicated himself to for so many years.

To Harry's family, to his wife Landra, to all the children and grandchildren, I offer my prayers and my condolences.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Now, Mr. President, the Senate gavels in on this icy January morning to mark the beginning of a new year, and there is much we must accomplish. At the start of 2020, few could have foreseen the awful trials our country has endured over the past 2 years.

But, against adversity, the American people responded. Last year, over 200 million Americans got vaccinated against COVID, 6 million jobs were added back to the economy, and Congress delivered on historic legislation that gave Americans a much needed lifeline to get through the worst of COVID.

In a 50-50 Senate, we passed the first stand-alone infrastructure bill in decades, passed historic funding for the sciences and tech innovation, and confirmed the most judicial nominees in a President's first year since Ronald Reagan.

Despite the immense challenges before us, we now begin 2022 better off compared to where we were 1 year ago. But, of course, there is much, much still left to do. So let us continue.

To begin this week, the Senate will vote to confirm Gabriel Sanchez as U.S. circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit. A graduate of Yale, a Fulbright scholar, and a current associate justice of the California Court of Appeals, Justice Sanchez has presided in hundreds of cases and has the experience and expertise necessary to be an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

Off the floor, the negotiations will continue with Members of our caucus and with the White House on finding a path forward on Build Back Better. As I mentioned before Christmas, I intend to hold a vote in the Senate on BBB, and we will keep voting until we get a bill passed. The stakes are high for us to find common ground on this legislation. The climate crisis continues to worsen. Families and children continue

dealing with the impacts of COVID, and too many Americans still struggle to pay the high cost of healthcare and prescription drugs. We will keep working until we get something done.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. President, now, about January 6 and defending democracy, at the same time the Senate will also proceed on another urgent and fundamental matter: protecting our democracy and strengthening the right to vote in free and fair elections.

Later today, I will meet with a number of my colleagues to continue our conversation on voting rights, and I will meet with our entire caucus for the first time this year to talk about how we are going to move forward. There has been constant discussion among Members over the break—constant. I must have made a minimum of 10 phone calls every day, with maybe the exception of Christmas, in respect for my colleagues. But we have to keep moving forward.

And, a few days from now, our country will observe a dark and troubling milestone: the 1-year anniversary of January 6, the day that thousands of rioters, urged on by the vicious lies of the disgraced former President, waged a violent assault upon the U.S. Capitol in order to prevent a peaceful transfer of power.

This was no just peaceful demonstration; this was aimed at undoing our democracy. Thank God they failed.

As I said hours after the attack, January 6, 2021, will be forever remembered as a day of enduring infamy, a permanent blemish in the story of American democracy, and the final, bitter act of the worst President—the worst President—in modern times.

Of course, over the course of this week, we will pay tribute to the heroes who stepped up that fateful day: our Capitol Police, the DC Metro Police, our National Guard who kept watch for months, and everyone who acted quickly that day to save the lives and save our democracy. But this week—this week—we must also acknowledge that the attack on January 6 was not a one-off. It did not materialize out of the blue. On the contrary, January 6 was a symptom of a much broader illness that has now infected the modern Republican Party: an effort to delegitimize our elections, rooted in Donald Trump's Big Lie.

While January 6 was only 1 day, the Big Lie lives on and has only grown stronger. The Big Lie lives on in Republican-dominated State legislatures, where at least 19 States have passed 33 new laws that will potentially make it harder—harder—for millions to vote in our elections. They say they want to prevent fraud, and they have no evidence of fraud. We all know what they are up to: vitiating, poisoning our elections, this sacred part of American democracy.

And the violence and threats of violence continue. The Big Lie lives on through the troubling wave of violent

threats that election workers across the country have endured over the course of the last year, all simply for the audacity of having done their job to count the votes fairly and without bias.

If left alone—if left alone—the Big Lie threatens the very future of our Republic. If people don't believe in the sanctity of our elections, what is going to happen to this Republic? The sanctity of elections, the fairness of elections, the fact that after election day we abide by the results has been the cornerstone of our entire democracy. It is what democracy is all about. It is what the Founding Fathers constructed. Are we going to let that go by the wayside? Are we going to let it be poisoned and vitiated, with huge consequences to the effect of this Nation, probably greater than any we have seen since the Civil War?

So, as we remember January 6 this week and as we confront State-level voter suppression, we must be clear that they are not isolated developments; they are all directly linked to the same anti-democratic poison of the Big Lie.

Let me say that one more time. The insurrection of January 6, the flurry of new voter restriction laws, and the State-level efforts to subvert democracy are not isolated developments but manifestations of the same anti-democratic poison of Donald Trump's Big Lie, and they all demand the same solution: The Senate must advance legislation to protect our democracy and safeguard the right to vote.

Over the coming weeks, the Senate will thus consider legislation we can pass to achieve this goal. Democrats for months have tried to bring Republicans to the table, but every single time, Republicans use the rules of the Senate to prevent even a debate.

Voting rights in the past was a bipartisan issue. How quickly they forget. Republican Presidents—Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush—supported voting rights.

When voting rights extensions came up in this body in the past, they passed by large majorities—bipartisan. The resistance we see from modern-day Republicans is a beast of an entirely different nature. Maybe some of them were scared of Trump. But too many of them see this as a way to win advantage, to get their hard-right views enacted, even though the public doesn't support them, by jaundicing our election process and putting barriers in the way of particular people—not all people—of voting: people of color, poor people, people who live in big cities, young people, handicapped people, elderly people.

As I said in my "Dear Colleague" earlier this week, if Republicans continue to hijack the rules of the Chamber to prevent action on something as critical as protecting our democracy, then the Senate will debate and consider changes to the rules on or before January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Over the course of history, the Senate has debated voting rights many times and done what was necessary to take action, but rarely did our predecessors face the sort of malice that now confronts our democracy from within.

One final point. I mean, the arguments from the other side—they are saying: Federalize the elections. That is in the Constitution, that Federal elections can be determined by Federal legislation. That is what some of our great post-Civil War amendments were all about. That is what the history of voting rights legislation has been about. When State legislatures, for reasons often bigoted and racist, said people couldn't vote for one reason or another or stopped them from voting, the Congress stepped in. That is nothing new. It is unbelievable the arguments they come up with—just totally false. Totally false.

So as we hold this debate, I ask my colleagues to consider this question: If the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, then how can we Democrats permit a situation in which Republicans can pass voter suppression laws at the State level with only a simple majority vote but not allow the U.S. Senate to do the same? And I ask that of my Democratic colleagues—my Democratic colleagues.

This asymmetry cannot hold. If Senate Republicans continue to abuse the filibuster to prevent this body from acting, then the Senate must adapt. The Senate always has.

Robert C. Byrd, one of this Chamber's great traditionalists, acknowledged that Senate rules that seemed appropriate in the past "must be changed to reflect changed circumstances." Boy oh boy, do we have changed circumstances now with this abandonment of voting rights by the Republican Party and a willingness to let voters from one end of the country to the other be suppressed. As times change and circumstances evolve, the Senate must follow the suit of changed circumstances when necessary. So we are going to work towards that goal in the coming weeks.

To downplay the threat against our democracy is dangerous—dangerous. We have seen this in history forever. When people try to subvert democracy, when they use threats of violence to do so, if good people don't stand up, the democracy can wither. We cannot let that happen to our wonderful country.

There is no better way to heal the damage of January 6 than to act so that our constitutional order is preserved for the future. If we do not act to protect our elections, the horrors of January 6 will risk becoming not the exception but the norm. The stakes could not be higher. So we are going to move forward.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

REMEMBERING HARRY REID

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Mark Twain said that "the two most impor-

tant days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."

Harry Reid grew up in the tiny mining town of Searchlight, NV. This politician class, which I am part of, likes to try to trace their roots to some humble beginning, some log cabin experience that they have overcome to reach public office. Harry didn't have to fake it. He was the third of four boys born in the Great Depression to a very poor family. His father was a hard-rock miner who battled alcoholism and was tortured by depression. His father took his own life. Harry came to the floor so many times, I can remember, and spoke of this issue of suicide and what it had meant to him as a boy growing up and what it meant to so many people across America.

His mother, a sweet, humble woman, helped to feed the family by doing laundry. The family home was a sight to behold—a tin-roofed, wooden cabin with no indoor plumbing, no hot water, and no telephone.

The day Harry came into this world was December 2, 1939. The day he had his Mark Twain moment and learned why he was put here happened 30 years later.

Against all odds, Harry had escaped the poverty of his childhood. He had put himself through law school at George Washington University here in Washington, DC, and he worked as a Capitol Police officer in this building to pay for his law school. After graduating, he returned to Nevada as a young lawyer and got involved in local politics.

Then came that Mark Twain moment. Harry attended a speech at the University of Nevada in Reno by a writer named Alex Haley. Haley's masterwork, "Roots," traced the story of one American family's triumphant rise over several generations from the horrors of slavery to freedom. Something that Alex Haley said that night hit Harry Reid like a thunderbolt. Haley said: "Be proud of who you are. You can't escape who you are."

Harry Reid recalled that moment in his farewell address to the Senate a little over 4 years ago. Harry said: "I walked out of that event that night a different person, a new man. From that day forward, I would always be Harry Reid from Searchlight."

As his favorite author, Mark Twain, might say, that was the day Harry Reid found out why he was born. He spent the rest of his life after that Alex Haley experience—almost half a century—climbing the political ladder in America to one of its highest rungs but using that power to help underdogs like the little boy from Searchlight, people like his parents, who struggled to feed their children, and others who felt the crushing hand of fate.

Harry Reid believed that the American family could come together as a government and make life better for one another. He believed that wise government decisions gave people an op-

portunity to overcome adversity. Some who grew up in poverty and hardship and escaped it are so seared by the pain of that life that they never want to look back. They develop a sort of myopia that seems to make it hard for them to even see the struggles of others. That was not Harry Reid.

As a young man, he was a tough middleweight boxer. As a lawmaker, he used his boxer's instincts to fight for others. He mastered the arts of dealmaking and lawmaking to help people who work hard and struggle.

He will go down in history as a Senate majority leader who helped deliver the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—the most important health and economic security advancement in America in 50 years. Thirty-one million Americans—1 out of every 10—have health insurance today because of Obama's leadership and Harry Reid making it a reality.

His work in the Senate, I witnessed personally, day by day by day. I can remember so many chapters, days when I thought it was over; there was no way. Here we were with exactly 60 votes, and our friend, a man we both loved, Teddy Kennedy was dying. We didn't know if we could get to the finish line in time while he was still alive, but Harry was determined. He had a bulldog tenacity to pass that bill. When he fought for the Affordable Care Act, Harry remembered his own life story of how his brother had been writhing in agony in bed with a broken leg because the family couldn't afford to take him to a doctor. Harry used his power to prevent other families from knowing that suffering.

After the great recession of 2009 robbed millions of Americans of their jobs, their homes, and their savings, Harry Reid, as majority leader, helped pass the landmark Dodd-Frank Wall Street reforms, to help prevent the abuses that led to that crash.

Nevada is home to many immigrants. Senator Harry Reid was a passionate advocate of legislation to fix our broken immigration system. We came to the House together, elected in 1982. He left just a few years later to come to the Senate, and I joined him a few years after that, so we had a friendship that dated back many years.

He knew my feelings about immigration, particularly about the DREAM Act. He wasn't sure of exactly what to do until he had two moments in life; one, when his wife Landra talked to him about that issue and how he had to do the right thing and the second was when he came to meet the immigrant people who were in his State of Nevada and hear their life stories. He promised me as my friend and as his whip to his majority leadership that he would bring the DREAM Act to the floor. He knew he had to block out the calendar to do it, and he knew the chances of success were limited, but he was determined to give me my day here on the floor of the Senate.

He brought the DREAM Act to the floor of the Senate in December of 2010.

We had a majority for it. It wasn't the only time we had majority, but, of course, we fell short of the 60-vote requirement under the filibuster.

Then Harry said: What can I do?

I told him: Harry, we have to reach out to our friend and former colleague Barack Obama. We have to ask him to do everything in his power to use his Executive Office to do what we cannot accomplish because of the filibuster.

So we wrote a letter, 22 of us Democrats, to Barack Obama, pleading with him to step in and help those wonderful young people who were just asking for a chance to be part of America's future. Harry's signature meant a lot as majority leader of the Senate. Barack Obama said he would help and created DACA, and hundreds of thousands of people have had their chance to be legally in America and be part of its future.

Harry Reid served in Congress longer than any Nevadan in history. He served in the Senate for 30 years. He was one of only three people to serve 8 years or more as Senate majority leader. He earned the tribute of our Nation, and it will be paid to him this coming weekend and the following week where his body will lie in state in the Rotunda in this Capitol that he loved.

Harry was my colleague, my leader, and my friend. Had he not called me personally and asked me to consider running for whip many years ago, I probably wouldn't have done it. But I knew that if he trusted me, I could offer my candidacy to the Senate in the hopes of being elected as whip. He had so many stories to tell. Hardly a day would go by where I wouldn't be in his office. He would tell some story about growing up, about his high school buddies, about his sports experience, about his wonderful wife Landra, about family experiences that always were colorful stories.

One involved one of his brothers who got into a fight in a bar in Nevada. His brother was outnumbered, and he was about to take a beating, when the front door of the tavern flung open and Cousin Jeff, a big bruiser of a man, walked in and took control, saving his brother from a beating. I was proud to be called "Cousin Jeff" by Harry. When he called me into political battles to be by his side so many times, it was an honor.

I was with him when he served as majority and minority whip. Harry was a man of extraordinary humility. He was the first to admit he wasn't much of an orator, and he would say that his good looks didn't win him into public office. But he had a genius for listening to people. He listened to the voices of our caucus, across the aisle, and across America. He managed often to find a way forward. He was a modest man. He didn't care who got the credit as long as the work was done.

The only thing that Harry Reid loved as much as the Senate and the promise of America was his family. Landra is such an extraordinary person, Harry's wife of 62 years. They started dating in

high school, and Harry knew that she was the "one." It took some convincing for her family to come around to that point of view, but they did, and they had a strong, loving relationship. Their children, Rory, Lana, Key, Leif, and Josh, and their 19 grandchildren were such a great source of pride to Harry more than anything.

I want to extend my sympathy to them on my behalf and behalf of my wife Loretta, as well as to the talented staff members who served Harry Reid for so many years, if any of them are still here in the Senate.

Above my desk is a portrait of President Lincoln. And above Harry's desk was a painting of Mark Twain. I was confused the first time I saw it because I pictured Mark Twain on the Mississippi, growing up in Missouri. I didn't quite understand the connection. In fact, Mark Twain spent the largest share of his life in Connecticut, where he and his wife raised their family. But Harry Reid said that it was while Samuel Clemens was working as a young newspaper reporter in Nevada that he became "Mark Twain." It was in Nevada where he first used that pseudonym.

Harry Reid rose to one of the highest positions in our government. He met with Presidents, Prime Ministers, even Monarchs, and this man from Searchlight helped craft and pass some of the most important legislation of our time. But like Mark Twain, it was in Nevada that Harry discovered why he was born. He fought for justice and fairness, and he always fought for the underdog. He was searching for those young people like himself who grew up in a hard-rock mining town under the toughest of circumstances and did their best. He wanted to give them the same fighting chance he had in life.

Harry fought the good fight. He finished the race. America is better for it. I will miss my friend.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRERSIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. CORNYN. Happy New Year. It is good to see you and everybody back at the beginning of a new year after, I hope, a few days of respite and relaxation with friends and families and, hopefully, we have all had a chance to recharge our batteries now for the work ahead.

One of the great things about taking a few days off during the holidays is you get a chance to reflect on your work, your life, your family, what you are doing right, what you are doing wrong. That is what New Year's resolutions are all about, changing some of

those habits that maybe aren't serving us all that well.

But it is also to sort of reflect on the work here in the Senate. And I want to start by quoting one of the wisest men I knew, and that was my dad. My dad said—he had a whole list of aphorisms, most of which kind of embarrassed my brother and sister and me because they were so corny, but some of them were pretty shrewd and right on.

And one of them was that he said the hallmark of intelligence is to learn from your mistakes. The hallmark of intelligence is to learn from your mistakes.

And we are merely human and we all make mistakes—we all acknowledge that—but learning from our mistakes is perhaps the most important thing we can do to make progress, to get smarter, to learn from experience, and to do things better the next time.

I also thought of another wise man—you might call him a genius—Albert Einstein, who supposedly said—and I can't vouch for this, but maybe it is apocryphal; maybe it is accurate.

He said:

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. I was reflecting on this—these two definitions of intelligence and insanity as I thought about the year past and our 50-50 Senate. In 2020, we had a historic election, no doubt. Our Democratic colleagues captured not only the White House but the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But what is so amazing about that is the lessons that they learned from that 50-50 election in the Senate and a bare majority in the House was very different from what I think, historically, people have come to believe that that kind of message would send.

Ordinarily, you would think that—well, first of all, this is not the New Deal and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Franklin Delano Roosevelt had huge majorities in the House and the Senate when he passed the New Deal legislation, historic legislation by any count.

Conversely, in 2020, when President Biden was elected, the American people basically said we don't particularly trust either one of the major political parties so we are going to divide power equally in the Senate and give you a bare majority in the House, believing, I think, maybe intuitively, if not consciously, that that would force us to work together.

That is not necessarily the first instinct we have when we come here to the Senate or the Congress. We want what we want. We all run for election. We campaign on a platform saying, if elected, I am going to do this or that—and it is frustrating to not be able to do it.

But the wisdom of our Founders was that with the various checks and balances that we have on unilateral or partisan power, that when the voters

say, well, we are going to divide power equally in the Senate, you would think the conclusion or the lesson that you would learn from that is what, historically, we have come to believe to be true, which is that they believe we ought to work together and not try to do things on our own.

So you would think that an equally divided Senate would encourage the majority leader—who is majority leader only by virtue of the fact that Vice President HARRIS is the Presiding Officer of the Senate. She is not actually a Member of the Senate, but she can break tie votes.

That is what gives Senator SCHUMER, the Senator from New York, his job as the majority leader, in spite of the fact that we have a 50-50 Senate.

So you would think that an equally divided Chamber would encourage the majority leader to prioritize bipartisan bills that could win broad support. That is what we did last year in the last year of the Trump administration. We worked together to pass, I think, close to \$5 trillion of relief from COVID-19, this terrible pandemic that has gripped the planet for the last 2 years.

But, apparently, the majority leader reached a different conclusion because that is not the type of work that he has prioritized in the Chamber during this last year. It didn't start off very well. After a wonderful speech by Biden on January 20, when he talked about healing our country, coming together as a nation despite our differences, the first thing the Democratic-controlled Senate did is pass a partisan \$2 trillion spending bill in the name of COVID-19 relief.

Well, they omitted to mention that only about 10 percent of the money, the \$2 trillion, on top of the \$5 trillion we had spent on a bipartisan basis—that out of that \$2 trillion, only about 10 percent of it was really related to the pandemic, and only 1 percent supported vaccinations. Perhaps the single most important thing that we have done in response to COVID-19 is to make vaccinations broadly available, and we continue to encourage people to get vaccinated, as I do every chance I get.

But after that first \$2 trillion partisan spending bill, our colleagues then repeatedly used the Senate's time, which is the most precious asset we have here in the Senate, which is floor time, to vote on smaller but no less problematic bills that really stood zero chance of becoming law in a 50-50 Senate.

There was one to—in the name of paycheck fairness that was, in fact, designed to line the pockets of trial lawyers, and it didn't pass.

Then our Democratic colleagues drafted an election takeover bill. They said the only way for us to restore the public's confidence in the voting process is for the Federal Government to take it over, to hijack it, notwithstanding the position in the Constitution that elections should be run at the

State level. And this election takeover bill was so blatantly partisan that even Members of the Democratic Senate voted against it.

But they didn't stop there. They rewrote the bill and brought it up for another vote in October, and again it failed. Our Democratic colleague, the majority leader, has said this partisan legislation will resurface again later this month. But I don't expect the outcome to change because it is the same unconstitutional, partisan legislation that is not to advance the cause of access to the ballot or to enhance voter integrity, it is designed to enhance Democratic prospects to win elections in 2022 and 2024. That is what it is about.

And then there is the multitrillion-dollar tax-and-spending bill. And I know the Senator from West Virginia has been the chief spear catcher when it comes to all the criticism associated with this legislation, but I have told both the Senator from West Virginia and the Senator from Arizona that there are many Democrats, I believe, on the other side of the aisle who are grateful to them for preventing a vote on this terribly flawed bill in the face of rapidly rising inflation.

I mean, one reason why it costs more to fill up your gas tank or to feed your family or to buy an appliance is because of inflation. Prices have been going up dramatically. One reason is there has been so much money shoveled out the door, trillions of dollars. We never used to talk in terms of trillions of dollars here in Washington. We talked about billions of dollars.

Everett Dirksen famously said:

A million here, a million there, and pretty soon you're talking about real money.

Well, maybe it was a billion, I can't recall specifically, but I know he didn't talk about trillions of dollars. That is an innovation of the last couple of years.

I want to commend our colleague Senator MANCHIN for his courage in stopping this terribly flawed bill for all the reasons he and others have mentioned. And I hope that is the end of this terribly flawed legislation and it will force us to do what the Founders believed that we would do in the event of a 50-50 Senate and that is to work together.

By definition, "working together," means I am not going to get everything I want. The Presiding Officer and his political party aren't going to get everything he wants. That is what consensus means. That is what the Founders intended. And that is what the voters intended when they gave us a 50-50 Senate.

But it is not enough to vote against just bad legislation. We have a responsibility to work together when we can on bills that Senators from both political parties can vote for. That is the reason for the so-called filibuster rule, 60 votes.

We keep debating until 60 Senators say, OK, we are ready to vote. That is

what creates deliberation and debate and consensus building, not eliminating that requirement and then just passing bills by a strict majority—bills which can, by the way, be undone after the next election.

And just as colleagues on this side of the aisle have identified legislation we don't want passed absent an ability to build a bipartisan consensus, there is a litany of bills that I know our Democratic colleagues would not want passed were the shoe on the other foot. And I have been here long enough to know that eventually the shoe will be on the other foot.

I have always said that I have been in the majority and I have been in the minority and being in the majority is a lot better, a lot more enjoyable, a lot more productive, from my standpoint.

But, eventually, the Democratic colleagues will be in the minority, perhaps as soon as after the 2022 election. And if 51 votes is all it takes to undo things that have been done, well, that is exactly what will happen. That has been the history of the filibuster that has been applied to nominations, not to legislation.

I was here when Senator Harry Reid invoked the nuclear option and said: We are going to require 60 votes in order to confirm judges with a 51-vote threshold. And then when that was used to block judges on the DC Court of Appeals, Senator Reid invoked the nuclear option and got them passed by a strict partisan majority.

The Senator from Kentucky, Senator MCCONNELL, said: I have been here a while, too, and I know what goes around comes around. And what we have seen come around is three new Supreme Court Justices during Donald Trump's time as President of the United States. You might call it the physics of the Senate. I think it was one of Newton's laws said that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You might call that political physics.

At the start of this Congress, I promised my constituents in Texas that I would push back against dangerous proposals when needed, but I also said, in the same sentence, that I would work with my Democratic colleagues whenever possible, whenever I believed it was in the best interest of my 29 million constituents.

And despite the partisanship that has gripped this Chamber, we actually have made some progress in some areas, not that you would read very much about it in the newspaper. The nature of news is in conflict; it is not consensus. When things are consensus, it is not news. It is not on cable TV. It doesn't swirl around social media or the internet.

So we have been able to make some progress in some areas. For example, last month, the Senate passed the 61st annual National Defense Authorization Act—the 61st. That means we have done it 61 times in a row every year for 61 years.

This was good, bipartisan legislation and an example of what we can do

when we work together. This legislation ensures that our servicemembers will have the resources they and their families need, both on duty and off. It makes investments in military construction and our military bases across Texas and elsewhere, and it gives our commanders and our military leaders the certainty they need to plan for the future.

Another example of bipartisanship last year, not that many people remember or talk about it or write about it or hear about it on TV or see it on social media, but last summer we passed another major bipartisan piece of legislation called the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. This legislation makes investments in critical sectors to counter threats from China. One of the leading proponents of this bill was the Senator from New York, the majority leader, working principally with the Senator from Indiana, Senator YOUNG, and others of us.

One important part of that bill that I worked on with the Senator from Virginia, a Democrat, the senior Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER, was funding for programs created by the CHIPS Act. It actually became law last year, but we had to find a way to pay for it, and the Senate stepped up and did so, and now we are hoping that the House will follow suit.

But as consumers learned over this last year, actually, COVID-19 exposed our vulnerability to supply chains from overseas. We saw that first with personal protective equipment, most of which—virtually all of which—was made in China, and when we needed it here, well, we had to try to get it overseas from China to the United States so that it could protect our healthcare heroes, our frontline healthcare providers, among others.

But we learned that the vulnerabilities of our supply chains did not stop with PPE. Semiconductor shortages, for example, have a very real and dramatic impact on all of our lives. We have seen this in empty car lots, more expensive electronics.

The global semiconductor or microcircuit shortage is very visible and has had a dramatic impact on our economy and threatens our national security because most of it is made overseas. Ninety percent of the semiconductors in the world are made in Asia. If you take South Korea out of the picture, 63 percent of them are made in Taiwan—Taiwan.

Yeah, you may have read a little bit about Taiwan in the news recently, that President Xi has said he wants to essentially unify Taiwan with mainland China, settling an old civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists that started many years ago.

But can you imagine what would happen if President Xi decided to invade Taiwan and what that would do to our supply chain of critical semiconductors that operate everything from our iPhone to our F-35, fifth generation stealth fighters?

Well, our national defense is at stake, obviously, too, not just our economic future. From advanced fighters, quantum computing, and missile defense systems, all of them rely on semiconductors.

We may have read in the public domain that Russia and China are now touting their development of hypersonic missiles—missiles that travel 10 times the speed of sound. Well, our ability to defend our Nation and defend our allies and help them defend themselves depends on our access to these advanced semiconductors that make things like missile defense systems operate.

But, just for example, a single rocket interceptor like the kind that the State of Israel has been using to intercept rockets coming into Tel Aviv and other major cities, each one of those interceptors, which is part of the Iron Dome missile defense system, contains more than 750 semiconductor chips. This is our Achilles' heel.

The funding from the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act will help bolster domestic semiconductor manufacturing and ensure that we won't be at the mercy of other nations for access to critical components of our supply chains. This bill is over in the House, and Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader SCHUMER have entered into an agreement, which I hope will be consummated, that, in February, we will have a conference on that bill and pass, I hope, that CHIPS for America Act, together with the other efforts we have made to strengthen our defenses against a more aggressive People's Republic of China.

Well, we don't have much time to waste because we know one of the pre-eminent challenges that we have in the world today is not terrorism, like we experienced after 9/11. On 9/11 and thereafter we were focused like a laser on counterterrorism. Meanwhile, Russia and China continued to rebuild and replenish their arsenals and develop new and dangerous weapons that threaten our national security and, in the end, threaten our freedom.

In addition to these big, bipartisan bills that I have mentioned, I was glad that a number of bills that I introduced became law last year.

After years of fighting, we finally succeeded in making Juneteenth a national holiday. Juneteenth started in Galveston, TX, when, 2 years after the Civil War was over, the former slaves in Galveston were told: You are free.

We have been celebrating that for 40 years in Texas, and I am proud to say we have now made this a national holiday. Hopefully, this will be a source of education and reconciliation, and so people will understand our history because, as the old saying goes: Those who don't remember their history are condemned to relive it.

This would not have happened without the support and the tenacity of advocates across Texas, including my friend Ms. Opal Lee of Fort Worth, who

is widely known as the grandmother of Juneteenth.

By the way, the Dallas Morning News editorial board named her as the woman of the year for last year, quite an appropriate recognition.

But this bill and this holiday will preserve the history of Juneteenth for generations to come and ensure that we never forget the significance of that day when Major General Gordon Granger's troops declared that all slaves are forever free.

Then we passed bipartisan bills to strengthen the policies and procedures for reporting missing servicemembers, something very near and dear to those of us in Texas, given the terrible and tragic loss of Vanessa Guillen.

We also strengthened our defense against China by strengthening our relationship with Taiwan.

We passed bipartisan legislation ensuring that for Federal officers—no matter where they serve—that their attackers, their killers can be brought to justice.

For border States, like the Presiding Officer's and mine, we have modernized and increased staffing at points of entry at our borders with Mexico, without spending taxpayer dollars.

We have also closed a loophole abused by some companies fueling the opioid epidemic.

Again, I could go on and on, but these are just a few of the bipartisan bills that I was privileged to work on and that were signed into law last year.

When you add the bipartisan bills introduced by our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, it adds up to a lot of bipartisan wins for the American people. Again, you don't read about it much in the paper, you don't see it much on cable TV or read about it on social media, but it is real and it is true. It is true, and it is what I think we were sent here to do.

So my conclusion is perhaps an obvious one: that even in an equally divided Senate, if we try, if maybe we resist our impulse to go it alone, we can actually work together and find bipartisan solutions.

One of our former colleagues, Mike Enzi, who passed away in the recent past—when I came to the Senate, he was on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee with the liberal lion of the Senate, Teddy Kennedy.

You know, I came here to the Senate, and I was kind of in awe of the people I had seen on television, and, particularly, the Kennedy family, who had served our Nation in so many different capacities. But I asked Mike Enzi, who was perhaps one of the most conservative Members of the Senate, how he and Teddy Kennedy, one of the most liberal Members of the Senate, could work together and actually pass legislation.

He said: It is easy. It is called the 80-20 rule. You find the 80 percent of what you can agree on, and then you leave the 20 percent for another day and another fight. Depending on your viewpoint, it can either be a recipe for gridlock or a really big opportunity.

And I have subscribed to the wisdom of the 80-20 rule. From what I have seen, I believe the Presiding Officer agrees with that as well.

So instead of just focusing on the things we can't agree on and perhaps will never agree on, because we have different visions for the role of the Federal Government in our lives—that is OK. Those are the debates we have been having since the founding of this country, and we will have forever, as long as this great Nation lasts.

But let's not just focus on the 20 percent we can't do, which seems to be the obsession of the news media and others. Let's think more about the 80 percent we can do. Rather than waste floor time, which is coin of the realm here—I mean, if it can't come to the floor because there is no floor time, it is not going to happen. So rather than waste time on partisan bills that will ultimately go nowhere, let's find common ground and work on our shared priorities.

I have got one idea. How do we help families struggling to keep up with the highest inflation in nearly four decades? I have lived long enough to know when interest rates were close to 20 percent and we had double-digit inflation. It was a miserable time in this country because people's paychecks were eaten up by inflation and they couldn't afford to buy things, like houses, that they ordinarily might buy to increase their standard of living because interest rates were so high on mortgage loans.

Or let's work on supply chains that have been unable to keep up with demand. The vulnerabilities have been exposed by COVID-19. Again, the definition of intelligence, as my dad used to say, what he called the hallmark of intelligence, is learning from your mistakes, not doing the same thing over and over again, like Albert Einstein said, and expecting different results.

There is also a humanitarian crisis on the border that has led to the highest number of annual apprehensions on record.

I am not confident our colleagues on the other side actually believe in enforcing our immigration laws, but maybe I am wrong. Maybe there are some areas that we could work on. The Senator from Arizona, Senator SINEMA, and I, and HENRY CUELLAR, a Democrat from Laredo, and TONY GONZALES, a Republican from Texas, we have worked on the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act, and we would love to be able to work with our colleagues across the aisle to find some way to address the uncontrolled access that people who have no reasonable grounds for asylum are getting and coming into our country and then fading into the great American landscape.

There are other things I would like to do in the immigration space, things like the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Ten years ago, President Obama issued an Executive memorandum saying that if you were

brought here as a child, under certain criteria, you will be able to stay and you will be able to get work permits. But it has been in litigation for the last 10 years. The last decision by a Federal district judge in Houston, TX, Judge Hanen, said that basically the DACA and DAPA—in this case, the DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—memorandum is unconstitutional and that only Congress can address this.

And I suggest we should. I have asked the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to put a bill on the floor in the Judiciary Committee that provides some certainty in the future for these young people, who are now young adults, living in uncertainty. Give them some certainty and some comfort knowing that they don't need to fear deportation or some other negative consequence, because I believe there is a broad consensus that we ought to give them some relief.

In America you don't hold children responsible for the mistakes parents make, and I believe that we could find a bipartisan solution to at least that part. And do you know what? Maybe—just maybe—by doing some things together, we can increase confidence among ourselves.

Yeah, we really can. We can work together. We can find bipartisan solutions. We don't have to just fight and emphasize the 20 percent we can't agree on. We can work on that 80 percent and make real progress.

I believe these are the types of issues that the American people sent us here to solve. Forget legislation that hands tax breaks to the wealthy or federalizes America's elections, notwithstanding the provisions of our Constitution. Let's work together to solve real problems where there is an opportunity for us to find that 80-percent solution.

So, as we welcome the start of a new year, I hope the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, and our colleagues across the aisle will look at the 50-50 Senate with a fresh perspective. We do have an opportunity to deliver big wins to the American people this year, and I hope the Senate majority leader, who sets the agenda on the floor, will allow that to happen.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to express my deep sorrow at the death of former Senator Johnny Isakson. I served with Johnny for a long time, not just here in the Senate, where we came in together as freshman Members in 2005, but also in

the House of Representatives, and I was honored to call him my friend.

Johnny was a tremendously effective legislator and, in particular, a champion for veterans and a model of decency and graciousness. When I came down to the floor to discuss his retirement 2 years ago, I read a quote from a politics professor in Georgia that I thought really captured Johnny. I think so still. Here is what that professor had to say:

As a political science professor and an administrator, I'm often asked by students if good people can serve in government and keep their integrity. Johnny Isakson is always the first example I come to. It's very often a shocking revelation to most people—that good people can, and often do, serve in government for long periods, fight hard for what they believe in, and remain true to themselves and their principles. And they don't have to sell their souls to do it. It's a great lesson, really.

Mr. President, that was Johnny—a good man, one of the best I have ever known. He came to Washington to serve his State and his country and served them faithfully throughout his life.

My thoughts and prayers are with Johnny's wife Dianne and with his children and grandchildren.

REMEMBERING HARRY REID

Mr. President, I also want to mention the loss of former Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, who also passed away this Christmas, and also extend my thoughts and prayers to his wife Landra and his family.

2021

Mr. President, the end of 2021 marks the end of a year of Democratic governance, and the picture is sobering. If we were issuing a report card for 2021, I am afraid Democrats would earn a "D" for "dreadful" or "disaster" or an "F" for "failure" because 2021 was filled with one Democratic-led crisis after another.

Take our current inflation crisis. When Democrats took office last January, inflation was well within an acceptable range or what is known as the target inflation rate. It might have stayed there had Democrats not decided they needed to pass a massive government spending spree under the guise of COVID relief mere weeks after Congress had already passed a major COVID bill.

That is right. In December of 2020, Congress passed its fifth bipartisan COVID relief bill, a nearly \$1 trillion piece of legislation that met essentially all current, pressing COVID needs. But the ink was barely dry on the page before Democrats decided that they needed to take advantage of the COVID situation to pass another bill—this time, a hyperpartisan \$1.9 trillion piece of legislation packed with unnecessary government spending and pay-offs to Democratic interest groups. That unnecessary government spending, of course, had serious consequences.

The definition of "inflation" is too many dollars chasing too few goods and

services, and that is exactly the situation Democrats created. They sent too many Federal dollars into the economy, and the economy overheated as a result.

Since Democrats passed their so-called American Rescue Plan, inflation has gone up and up again. In November, inflation hit its highest level in nearly 40 years—40 years—and American families are dealing with the consequences: spikes in food prices, rent prices, utility prices, used car and truck prices, propane, kerosene, and firewood prices, and the list goes on. Inflation is so bad that despite wage growth in 2021, Americans saw a de facto pay cut.

You would think that the economic pain Americans are experiencing would be giving Democrats pause, but in fact, despite massive inflation, Democrats have been trying to double down on the reckless spending strategy that helped cause so much inflation in the first place. Fortunately, they have so far been unable to summon a majority in the Senate to support their latest reckless spending plan, but their unconcern with the dangerous economic consequences of their proposed new spending spree is deeply troubling.

I wish I could say that our inflation crisis was the only Democratic disaster to come out of 2021, but that wouldn't be true. Democrats have also presided over a massive crisis at our southern border—a crisis that Democrats are apparently completely content to ignore. The illegal migration across our southern border picked up in the wake of the President's inauguration and reached stratospheric levels in 2021.

The crisis shows no signs of abating. In November, the latest month for which we have statistics, Customs and Border Protection encountered 173,620 people attempting to cross our southern border illegally. That is well over double the number who tried to cross illegally in November of 2020 and more than four times the number who attempted to cross in November of 2019. But you would never know it from listening to the President or congressional Democrats. It has become very clear that the President doesn't care about what is happening at our southern border despite the very real security and humanitarian crisis that this massive wave of illegal immigration represents.

But our ongoing inflation and border disasters still don't represent the total of Democrats' 2021 failures. There was also the President's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The President's arbitrary, chaotic withdrawal was a real low point for our country. Thirteen of our military men and women died in a terrorist attack during the evacuation of Kabul. We abandoned thousands of individuals who had worked with us in Afghanistan and whom we had promised to protect. They are bracing for life under the brutal control of the Taliban, if they haven't been forced into hiding or met

an even more grim fate. The President also left behind hundreds of American citizens, and the latest report suggests that some of them may still be trying to find a way out of the country.

Meanwhile, the President, who was supposed to restore our standing on the world stage, left our allies wondering if our word could be relied on.

Most of all, the President's disastrous withdrawal has left our country in a more precarious national security position. Afghanistan is well on its way to once again becoming a terrorist haven. But, as with our border crisis, the dangers of our current Afghanistan situation barely seem to register on the President's radar.

I could go on and talk about how the President, who promised to be a President for all Americans, has instead been a President for the far-left wing of the Democratic Party. I could talk about how congressional Democrats, despite holding a razor-thin majority in Congress, have governed in a relentlessly partisan and extreme manner, attempting to force through far-left legislation, including a Federal takeover of election law and perhaps the most radical abortion legislation ever considered in Congress. I could talk about how Democrats are even now plotting to overturn a decades-old Senate rule in an attempt to force their partisan priorities through the Senate. But I will stop this discussion here.

Thanks to Democrats' disasters, 2021 was a very rough year for the country. I would love to think that Democratic governance in 2022 would be better, that Democrats would get serious about inflation, abandon their plans for another reckless spending spree, address our border crisis, and commit to bipartisanship, but given the way things have been going, I am not getting my hopes up.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, before I close, I want to take a moment to comment on the situation in Ukraine.

Tensions remain dangerously high as Russia has amassed a reported 100,000 troops on Ukraine's border. This, of course, is just the latest aggressive move by Russia, which already illegally annexed Crimea in 2014 and has been supporting separatist forces in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

It may have been overlooked during the busy holiday season, but I would like to note for the record a bipartisan, bicameral virtual meeting that occurred on the morning of Christmas Eve with Ukrainian President Zelensky. I participated in this meeting, which enabled us to discuss the current security situation directly with President Zelensky.

We discussed the importance of the more than \$2½ billion in security assistance the United States has provided since 2014, including \$300 million in the latest National Defense Authorization Act. But given the urgency of the situation, the Biden administration must consider additional emergency assist-

ance at this critical time, and security assistance must also be backed by strong sanctions to deter any further Russian advances.

Unfortunately, President Biden has already given Russia a pass on one of Vladimir Putin's top priorities: the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. I have spoken before about the European security risk and economic harm to Ukraine that will be caused by Nord Stream 2. Yet President Biden has not enforced sanctions related to the pipeline—mandatory sanctions, I might add—that are required by law.

Per an agreement made prior to the Christmas break, the Senate will soon have a vote on these sanctions, and the message to Russia and President Putin must be clear: Don't interfere with the aspirations of Ukraine, and let Ukraine determine its future by the will of its people.

This is not a case of the United States and NATO looking to push east; this is a former Soviet state seeking to cast off Russia's grip, assert its sovereignty, and, of its own accord, align itself with the ideals of freedom and embrace peace and prosperity as a free and independent nation.

The United States should stand with Ukraine and against Russia's aggression.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:58 a.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BLUMENTHAL).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, a year ago, there was an attempted overthrow of American democracy right here in this building. You know, we spend so much time here arguing about things that are unknowable—about the future, about our ideology, about opinions—that we have become accustomed to treating floor speeches in the Senate as not primarily about facts.

But I was here. And by "I was here," I don't mean I was here in the Capitol. I mean, I was right here at this desk. And so no one needs to characterize it

for me or pontificate about it or tell me what I think happened. I was right here. It wasn't theoretical. It wasn't a debate. It was a physical siege on the U.S. Capitol.

I was already angry that day. The idea that American—American—democratically elected politicians would participate in a process so foul as to be worthy of our most autocratic adversaries had me in a sour mood. The electoral college certification is supposed to be the functional equivalent of a swearing-in. It is where the thing gets made official, but it is not like any decisions are supposed to be made that day. But Senators HAWLEY and CRUZ and others, with their unlimited ambition, their big brains, and their supposed expertise in the Constitution, were dancing on the edge of overturning democracy itself.

But I actually had no idea how bad it was, that there was an ongoing organized conspiracy to steal the election for real, not in a "Russian hacking" kind of a way or not in a "too many of the people I don't agree with voted" kind of way—actually overturning the whole thing.

So no one needs to tell me how to interpret this. I was there when they yelled: "Lock down, lock down." I was here when Mike Pence was ushered off the floor. I was here when CHUCK GRASSLEY and anyone else with a personal protection detail was rushed to safety, and the rest of us were just locked in here and told to stay in our seats.

I was here when Senator TODD YOUNG made himself ready to physically confront the violent traitors. I was here when we were finally moved to an undisclosed location and LINDSEY GRAHAM yelled at the Capitol Police leadership for not having a plan to handle such a moment.

And I was here when Reverend Black pulled us together in unity. And I was here when all but a few of us decided enough is enough, and we were collectively determined to finish our work and finish the count that evening.

We were perilously close to losing everything that night. And some did. Police officers were maimed and killed. Custodial workers and Senate staffers were hiding, with zero protection.

The insurrectionists were explicit. They wanted to kill the Speaker of the House.

One year later should be a simple, solemn commemoration of what happened and a collective, unified determination to never let anything like that ever happen again.

But I am even more worried now because that moment of unity is gone, and, most importantly, that moment of moral clarity of collective, patriotic outrage is fading. It went from Republicans being apologetic about their President to voting to exonerate him. It went from Republicans being angry at him and denouncing him to voting against putting a bipartisan commission together to get all of the facts out.

It went from 99 percent of the public being crystal clear about the moral threat to the right rewriting history and, in some cases, the left going along with it by telling us that some issues poll better.

To be clear, the litmus test for both political parties is, to greater or lesser degrees, the extent to which one is loyal to the President—fair enough. That is how the modern two-party system works, for better or worse.

But Donald Trump is now defining fealty to him by one thing and one thing only: Are you willing to install him into power regardless of the vote count?

And so now every Republican politician and elected official—secretaries of state, county election commissioners, U.S. Senate candidates—have to promise to put Trump above democracy itself. And many are doing it. They are now organizing the next coup in plain sight.

Now, I don't know the economics or the psychology behind it. Maybe, it is ratings. Maybe, it is just the natural tendency among the chattering class to not want to sound too wild-eyed—that being unworried is what passes for savvy in this town. But everyone, including those who consider themselves patriots, seem so chill about what is going on that I am genuinely alarmed. They are installing loyalists across the country in order to cheat, and they are not being subtle about it.

Meanwhile, the cocktail set in Washington is busy policing our tone and talking about Democratic overreach, and so the defining question this week and this year is this: Are we willing to face the challenge in front of us?

Yes, there is COVID. Yes, there is climate. But democracy itself is at risk in a way that we haven't seen in centuries, and we are standing around as a country arguing about mostly nonsense.

And I think here is the problem for all of us, and here is why this is so hard emotionally: If we take a moment to realize what is at stake, we might realize what is required. It will require Republicans to stand up to an autocrat. It will require Democrats to stop arguing amongst themselves. It will require reporters to write stories that get fewer clicks than whatever BS is driving the news of the day. It will require citizens to understand that democracy in this country is not what we have. It is what we do, and it is never guaranteed.

So, this week, we commemorate the fallen. We thank everyone who came to democracy's defense across the country and in our great Capital City. But we know that this was round 1. We know that authoritarians rarely give up, and we know that they aren't doing their preparation for the next coup in hiding. They are doing it all in plain sight, and they must be stopped.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

REMEMBERING HARRY REID

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today, I rise to pay tribute to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a champion for Nevada. He was one of the most powerful, dedicated, and effective advocates that my home State has ever seen. He worked for the benefit of Nevadans for almost 50 years in both State and national politics. Everyone living in the Silver State today has benefited from his wise and tenacious efforts.

But before Harry Reid was my Senator and the Senator for the State of Nevada, he was a neighbor to my family. He was a mentor and a friend.

Now, I grew up in Las Vegas, just down the street from the Reid family, and my sister and I attended public school with their oldest son, Rory. And the entire Cortez family and Masto family and I want to send our condolences to his beautiful wife Landra; his children, Lana Reid Barringer, Rory, Leif, Josh, and Key; and his 19 grandchildren and his great-grandchildren.

Harry Reid was irreplaceable, not just to them but to so many people, including me and many of my colleagues in this Chamber. He was unfailingly supportive of me throughout my entire time in public service.

You know, I remember when I first decided to run for the office of Nevada's attorney general. One of the first people I called was Senator Reid, and I asked him for advice. I asked him for advice on running for office because it was the first time I had ever run for any type of office, and I had chosen to take on a statewide campaign. Not only was he supportive, but he was candid in his comments—as only Harry can be—about campaigning, the types of individuals working in the campaign world, and what to beware of, of those working in that campaign world. His advice still rings true today.

When I was serving, and fortunate enough to be elected statewide as the attorney general, Senator Reid was always available for a call. And he never forgot about Nevada and working with everybody in Nevada from his seat here as a majority leader.

I remember one time, as the attorney general, I got a call from a Senator here in the U.S. Senate, and the Senator said to me: I was just talking to Senator Reid, and there is an issue that came up that I would like to focus on, but Senator Reid said: You better call my attorney general first in Nevada to make sure that she and the State of Nevada are supportive of it. And to this day, I now serve with that Senator. I will never forget getting a call from a U.S. Senator, as a sitting attorney general, to talk about an issue that was important for Nevada because Senator Reid knew what was important for him and his State.

He also had this uncanny ability to call you at just the right time, when you needed support or encouragement, when you needed advice or just someone to commiserate with. We all know

he didn't like to stay on the phone long, but he knew when you needed him, and he would be there. He was a compassionate and kind man, a side of him that many people did not see but many people also benefited from greatly over the years. It is my incredible honor to be able to hold the seat he occupied so well for so long.

Harry Reid accomplished so much as a Nevada Senator. Born in the little town of Searchlight, NV, he knew his home State better than anyone. He understood that Nevada was a microcosm of our country. He knew that Nevada's diversity mirrored this Nation's, and that is why Senator Reid worked to give Nevada a greater role in deciding each party's nominee for President. He wanted to ensure that a State as diverse and dynamic as Nevada played an important role in choosing America's leaders.

Harry Reid also understood Nevada's landscapes, from the desert outside of Searchlight that so many of us have heard about to the snowy peaks of the Ruby Mountains in winter, to the glistening waters of Lake Tahoe. He was a dedicated environmentalist who helped conserve Nevada's abundant national treasures, keeping our State beautiful for future generations and protecting outdoor recreation that fuels our State's economy.

And we all know he would not back down from a fight, especially when it involved Nevada; whether that was blocking every effort to dump nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain without Nevada's agreement or advocating for Federal funding to help upgrade Nevada's schools, airports, roads and bridges, he was relentless in his push to get our State the resources that we deserved.

Harry Reid was as diligent in supporting Nevada's rural and Tribal communities as he was in building up our world-class cities. He helped create Nevada's booming clean energy economy and make the State a destination for those looking to build an innovative, sustainable future.

The changes that he helped set in motion were so far-reaching that they allowed Nevada to benefit from the innovation economy of the 21st century. He paved the way for us. It isn't just Nevadans who are better off because of Harry Reid; the entire country gained because of his hard work and his dedication. He helped rescue the country by getting America through the great recession, taking extra care to support the hospitality and tourism economies that are so vital to the economy and the jobs in Nevada.

He was instrumental in protecting Nevada's and the Nation's Dreamers and immigrant families.

In his crowning legislative achievement, he fought tirelessly to get millions of Americans access to affordable healthcare. His work was key to ensuring that the Affordable Care Act became law, lowering healthcare costs and giving access to high-quality care to millions who didn't have it before.

Harry Reid was a great American, but first and foremost, he was a great Nevadan. He never forgot where he came from, and there is no doubt in my mind that is what motivated him every single day. As Nevada's son, he made a tremendous difference for our State and for every American. He was a wonderful friend and a true public servant and for that we will miss him in the Senate and across the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON JEROME HILL

Mr. President, I would also like to talk a little bit today about another incredible American whom I have come to know. Both my husband and I, Paul and I, got to know this individual over the years. He has become a friend. He is an incredible American, and today is his birthday. His name is Clinton Jerome Hill.

Clint is a true hero, the iconic Secret Service agent who jumped onto a moving car while bullets flew in an effort to save President Kennedy from an assassination.

Born on this day in 1932, Clint Hill grew up in the tiny town of Washburn, ND. He was a good student; he loved music; and he was an outstanding athlete. Clint went on to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where he was a standout football and baseball player, graduating in 1954.

Though Clint had visions of being a history teacher and athletics coach, he was drafted immediately into the U.S. Army, where he worked in counter-intelligence in an Army field office in Denver, CO.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower happened to be in Colorado on vacation when the President suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for 7 weeks. That is when Clint ended up meeting several members of Eisenhower's Secret Service detail. He was deeply impressed with the dignity and demeanor of these fine men. At that time, there were just 269 agents in the entire Secret Service organization and, in 1958, Clint became one of them.

A year later, Agent Hill was assigned to the White House at age 27. He was one of a handful of men responsible for protecting the President of the United States. In 1959 and 1960, Clint Hill traveled with President Eisenhower on his goodwill tours to Europe, Asia, India, the Middle East, and South America.

When John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960, Clint was assigned to protect the First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy. Both President and Mrs. Kennedy were fond of Agent Hill and trusted him implicitly. Wherever Mrs. Kennedy went, Clint Hill was by her side.

And so it was that Agent Hill accompanied President and Mrs. Kennedy to Texas on November 22, 1963. Clint was present at the horrifying moment in Dealey Plaza when President Kennedy, riding in an open convertible, was shot. Clint immediately began to run toward the President's car to protect him, and many of us have seen that dramatic footage: Jackie Kennedy extending her hand back to Agent Hill, who leapt

onto the back of the moving car and jumped into the vehicle as it sped away to Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

After President Kennedy's tragic assassination, Clint Hill continued to protect Jacqueline Kennedy and her two children. Then, in 1964, he was transferred back to the White House. And in 1967, he became the Special Agent in Charge of Presidential Protection for President Lyndon Johnson. Throughout 1968, Clint was a Secret Service agent who had LBJ's back.

Clint Hill devoted his life to the Secret Service, ultimately being promoted to Assistant Director in Charge of all Protective Forces. He was married, had two sons, but like so many selfless Secret Service agents, he missed countless holidays, anniversaries, and birthdays.

In 1975, Clint retired from the Secret Service, a job and organization that he loved. In the years since, he has written three best-selling books about his work with his coauthor and now wife, Lisa McCubbin.

Today is Clint's 90th birthday. So, today, I want to pay tribute to a true American hero, a man who was willing to put his life on the line, not once but time and again to protect our leaders.

Now, I know something of the sacrifice this involves. My husband Paul is a retired Secret Service agent, and I am familiar with the commitment it takes for an agent to walk out that door every day to defend the President from threats. So on behalf of Paul, myself, the entire Masto family, we want to wish a happy birthday to our friend Clint Hill. Thank you for your service to our country and our sincere best wishes for many more wonderful years ahead.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I know that you are probably like me and you have been grateful for the time to be home and to see family and friends and just to chat with them about what is going on in their lives and the issues that are important to them, what they are looking at. It has been so interesting to get their perspective as we have visited.

I flipped through the papers yesterday, and I realize that many of our friends around town have this renewed sense of optimism about President Biden's ability to lead the country. I found that really quite interesting. You could look at it and say: It may be a new year, but it is the same old Biden.

It goes without saying that I do not share what I see as a misguided view. I entered this year with the same

healthy skepticism that I had back in December as we were finishing that legislative year. I will say this; that for the past year, the Democratic majority has indulged an administration that has treated their electoral victory like a mandate to enact some of the most irresponsible and radical policies we have seen in over a generation.

Now they are dusting off an agenda that is so unhinged, it has kept the Democrats deadlocked against one another for the year. We have seen this agenda breed mistrust, tension, and anger between the American people and their government. Few, if any, of those people could state that they are better off now than they were under President Trump and Republican leadership. But still, the Democratic majority has continued to push Biden's agenda on behalf of the most radical portions of their base.

Yes, leaning left—they are leaning far left. They are listening to the social justice warriors and the climate partisans and the Big Government activists, and the Democratic leadership is doing exactly what they are telling them they want done. Meanwhile, they are ignoring the people back home who actually have to deal with the consequences of this political tunnel vision.

Time after time in poll after poll, even more polls that have come out today, the American people have made it abundantly clear that they are not just dissatisfied with the President's failure to lead, with his radical agenda—you know what, they are not just angry. What I learned from Tennesseans is that people are really frightened by what they see taking place with this far-left, hard-left turn.

President Biden has to know all of this. The Democratic leadership has to know all of this. Look at all the polls. It doesn't matter if it is NPR, it doesn't matter if it is AP, it doesn't matter if it is CNN, the agenda, the President, the Vice President—they are all underwater. I think they have probably seen this coming since day one of this disastrous administration.

Take some of the specific issues. The Democratic leadership has had a front row seat to what is happening on the southern border. So has the administration. There has been a complete collapse of our Nation's sovereignty at the southern border. With the stroke of a pen, President Biden dismantled the policies that were keeping us safe. He invited waves of illegal immigrants into the country, said: Y'all come. Y'all come. We are ready for you.

He threw the Border Patrol and local law enforcement under the bus, did not listen to them. You don't have to take my word for it. Go to the southern border. Go visit with them.

He has let the cartel step into the leadership void at the southern border. The drug dealers and the human traffickers are in control of the southern border at this point in time. You do not cross that border unless you have

paid the cartels. But you know what, admitting this does not fit the agenda of the Democratic leadership, so they just ignore it. Now, President Biden and my Democratic colleagues continue to evade responsibility for keeping the border secure and safeguarding the national security. They don't want to talk about that.

They are also not wanting to talk about the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party and our other adversaries abroad. And that is right—the Chinese Communist Party is an adversary. They are not a competitor. They are not a friend or a frenemy. They are an adversary. What are they doing? They are conducting surveillance, academic espionage, and intellectual property theft. They are doing this every single day. It is all part of the standing operating procedures of the new axis of evil and all being ignored by people who are charged with running this country, keeping this country safe.

Tennesseans will tell you they are very concerned. The American people are very concerned. The polls are showing it. And they are blaming the Biden administration for not feeling safe, not feeling secure, for the supply chain crisis, for inflation. These are all things that have been brought about in the past year by decisions this administration has made, Executive orders they have executed.

Every time people in this country pick up their phone, they are faced with the knowledge that many of the programs and social media platforms that they once enjoyed are controlled by people who refuse to prioritize privacy and data security and realize that these cyber protections are important.

They are grateful for all the sunlight that you and I, Mr. President, have been able to shine on the problems with Big Tech. So many times as I was at home, people would mention to me how much they have learned through the hearings that we have held, the roundtable discussions, and they are wanting to see more attention brought to keeping us safe and limiting the surveillance, the property theft, and the academic espionage that the Chinese Communist Party and our adversaries are conducting in the virtual space. They are looking forward to seeing us translate this bipartisan consensus into action. They are looking forward to what we are going to deliver when it comes to online privacy, data security, section 230 reforms, to protect our innovators, to protect our children online, to protect our consumers.

When people look at what is being done, like the work we have done on technology policy, and what is not being done when it comes to addressing China, addressing Russia, dealing with Iran, when it comes to dealing with inflation, prices at the pump, and prices that are happening at the grocery store, they look at this and they say: Where is the President? Where is the Vice President? Where are people who should be working for the American people in Congress?

When we talk about the Democratic leadership, we know that they are too busy catering to the most radical fringe of the Democratic Party to do their job, and they are too busy with that to govern or to keep the economy in one piece and to keep the border intact or to provide for the common defense or to exercise a little oversight over some of the world's most powerful corporations.

Well, the American people deserve better. Tennesseans are wanting to see action. So while some of our colleagues across the aisle have a renewed sense of optimism about President Biden's ability to pull them out of this skid on this agenda that is going nowhere, the American people have spoken. They do not want what you are offering.

My resolve is going to be to stand here, to stand between what is happening, this destructive, as I call it, "Build Back Broke" agenda, and to protect Tennesseans and future generations of Americans from such an adverse and negative impact.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Democrats' agenda for the new year.

The American people have just come back from the most expensive Christmas in our Nation's history, coronavirus cases are breaking records all around the country, and many Americans spent their Christmas with their travel plans canceled.

Joe Biden now enters his second year in office with record-high inflation, record-high coronavirus cases, and a record-low approval rating. Now, Joe Biden is breaking all kinds of records, and each of these records reflects an America that is heading in the wrong direction.

The American people have two major concerns right now: coronavirus and what it costs to live their daily lives. Yet these two issues are not even on the radar of Democrats in Washington, DC.

In fact, Democrats have only made these problems worse. First, Democrats have unquestionably driven up the cost of living on American families. Inflation shot up after Democrats put \$2 trillion on America's credit card this spring.

Democrats told us inflation was transitory. They said it month after month after month. On the day after Christmas, Margaret Brennan of CBS News asked the Vice President a very basic question. She asked: Was it wrong to consider inflation transitory?

It is not a gotcha question. It is a question American families have asked themselves month after month after month, as they heard Democrats say it was transitory. Well, to the American people the answer is very clear. It is obvious. Of course, it was wrong by the administration, by the President, by the Vice President to try to mislead the American people by claiming that inflation was transitory.

So what did we hear from the Vice President in response to this question that has been of great concern to the American people?

What we heard was 118 words of incoherent rambling. She was like a deer in headlights on a basic question on the top issue of the day. Either the Vice President is out of touch with the needs of the American people or she just didn't want to admit that the Biden administration had been wrong month after month after month, until the inflation numbers hit a 4-year high.

It has gone on now for 9 months and, you know, it is only going to get worse. That is what the experts are telling us. In October, we saw the worst inflation in 30 years, and, in November, it became the worst inflation in 40 years.

Prices have gone up faster than wages. This means the average American family can purchase a lot less today than they could when Joe Biden took office.

And the biggest price increases, of course, have been in energy. In November, we saw the biggest energy price increase in 10 years. CNBC reports that one-fifth of American families couldn't afford to pay an energy bill this past year. Roughly the same percentage have kept their home at an unhealthy temperature because they can't afford the cost of providing heat.

People who travelled for Christmas faced some of the highest Christmas Day prices in history. Gas cost \$1 more a gallon this Christmas than it did last Christmas—1 year, \$1 a gallon more.

Many people couldn't travel because of coronavirus. Americans broke records for coronavirus cases twice last week. Ohio, Maryland, and here in the District of Columbia, all broke records for hospitalizations due to coronavirus.

Now, remember when Joe Biden ran for office? He said he was the cure for coronavirus. This guy ought to be sued for medical malpractice.

He came into office with two safe and effective vaccines. Millions of people have already been vaccinated. Yet more Americans have now died from coronavirus under President Joe Biden than under the previous President. From day one of this administration, this President has been inconsistent, incoherent, and incompetent.

The flip-flop on masks for the vaccinated has continued. The administration kowtowed to the teachers union on mask mandates for toddlers. They flip-flopped on booster shots. They flip-flopped again on testing.

For months now, countries like the United Kingdom have sent rapid tests

to their citizens through the mail. On December 23, President Biden told ABC News: "I wish I had thought about ordering . . . [at-home test kits] two months ago."

Well, it turns out the White House did think about it. The media is now reporting that the White House turned down a plan to mail test kits in October.

In early December, the White House Press Secretary was asked why the Biden administration wasn't mailing out tests. After all, the Democrats, on a straight party-line vote in March, put \$2 trillion on our Nation's credit card under the guise of COVID relief. Only 9 percent of the money went for healthcare. Where did that money go? Billions and tens of billions of dollars, so-called for testing, in the bill that the Democrats forced on a party-line vote, and yet there aren't tests in the country because people are lined up around the block waiting for tests that the President wished he had thought about.

That is what he told the world. That is what he said on ABC News.

In early December, the White House Press Secretary was asked why the Biden administration wasn't mailing out tests. She mocked the idea. Then, just a few weeks later, it became the policy of this same administration—too little, too late, another flip-flop, another example of the hypocrisy and the incompetence of this administration.

Someone in the press ought to ask Joe Biden if he still believes what he said as a candidate. So let's review what he said as a candidate.

In September of 2020, Joe Biden said: "If the president had done his job from the beginning"—he was referring to President Trump—Biden said, "all the people would still be alive." "All the people," he said. "I'm not making this up"—Joe Biden once again telling the world he is not making it up.

I don't know of a single doctor or public health official anywhere in the world who would agree with that statement by Joe Biden, then candidate for President. Yet Joe Biden said it repeatedly.

As a candidate, Joe Biden said: "Any President who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as President."

And to that I say: Joe Biden, you are right now responsible for that many deaths. So, maybe, you shouldn't remain as President either.

Joe Biden attacked the previous administration for letting Governors manage the response to coronavirus. Yet just last month, Joe Biden admitted: "There is no Federal solution" to the coronavirus.

Does Joe Biden still believe what he said as a candidate?

Did he ever believe it?

What does he know? What does he think? What does he believe? Or was he just running for President on the Big Lie?

Now, even for Democrats in Washington, the hypocrisy and the incompetence are astonishing. Now the American people all across this country are suffering the consequences of the mismanagement by this administration.

Flights, train departures, public events are all being canceled due to the resurgence of coronavirus. Cancellations continue today because of coronavirus under the President who said he would solve the problem, to the point that even the majority party's conference, which should have been a lunch, today was moved to be virtual because of the virus that Joe Biden said he would eliminate.

Joe Biden's lies and flip-flops continue. Joe Biden said he wouldn't issue a vaccine mandate. He said it on several occasions and then he broke his word. In the process, he took a sledgehammer to the American workforce, forcing people out of their jobs.

The Biden administration has also issued a mask mandate for children as young as 2 years of age, in preschool.

Just before Christmas, Senator LUMMIS, also from Wyoming, and I introduced a bill to stop this mandate. There is no scientific basis for forcing toddlers to wear masks. This isn't about the science. It has been shown that the teachers union lobbied for mask mandates in schools.

On May 13, the Centers for Disease Control issued its mask guidance for vaccinated people—for people who had been fully vaccinated. The guidance from the Centers for Disease Control said that fully vaccinated people could stop wearing masks indoors.

What happened the very next day?

Well, the very next day, the head of the National Education Association, the teachers union, called the Director of the Centers for Disease Control. The day after that, the Centers for Disease Control released new guidance—new guidance—saying vaccinated people should wear masks in schools. Maybe it was a coincidence. It doesn't look like it or sound like it to me. This flip-flop looks like a kind of political pandering, the pandering to union bosses that this administration has engaged in since day one.

The American people have two big concerns right now: coronavirus and the cost of living. Democrats on Capitol Hill continue to ignore the two biggest concerns of the American people.

What are the Democrats in this body focused on instead? Well, for 5 months now, Democrats in this body have tried to pass the largest spending bill in history.

What is it focused on? Not inflation; not COVID; not crime in the cities, where murder rates are at an all-time high; not border security, where the number of people coming in illegally, carrying disease and drugs, is at an all-time high. No, the Democrats want to focus instead on climate change and new entitlements. Their bill included

trillions and trillions of dollars in new taxes and trillions and trillions of dollars in new debt.

President Biden and nearly every Democrat in Congress went on record in support of this socialist budget bill. Not a single Republican supports it, and not even every Democrat supports it. Now Democrats are fighting among themselves, and it is an absolute disgrace. Democrats ought to be thankful that bill didn't pass, because if it passed, inflation would get worse, just in time for elections.

This isn't what the American people want. The American people have many concerns right now about the direction of this country and the direction that the President is trying to lead the Nation. The two biggest concerns are the coronavirus in their communities and the cost of living that impacts on them, on the people every day. Democrats are failing on both.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

CHINA

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we have started a new year, 2022, filled with opportunities and possibilities. Yet, even as we contemplate new beginnings, many things remain the same, especially when it comes to the crimes and atrocities being carried out by the Chinese Communist Party.

The genocide against the Uighur Muslims is still ongoing—a million individuals enslaved. The attacks on democracy and the silencing of free speech in Hong Kong continue. In fact, it was just announced that one of Hong Kong's last remaining pro-democracy news outlets, Citizen News, is shutting its doors because it cannot continue operations under the current climate of repression under China's national security law. In spite of all that, just 31 days from today, leaders and athletes from across the world will gather in Beijing to celebrate the opening ceremonies of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

The Olympic Games are meant to inspire and to bring people together to build a better world, using sports to foster what the Olympic movement describes as a peaceful society, concerned with the preservation of human dignity, but China is not using these games to advance human dignity; it is using the games to polish its international image and hide its crimes and abuses. A peaceful society, concerned with the preservation of human dignity, would not idly stand by and allow its government to silence those who speak out for the rights of their fellow workers. Yet we see that happening time and time again in China.

This picture is of Fang Ran. He is a 26-year-old Ph.D. student in Hong Kong University's Sociology Department, where he studies Chinese labor relations and the Chinese labor movement. It is reported that Fang, while conducting fieldwork on his thesis about labor empowerment in China, in his

hometown on the mainland last August, was taken into custody by the Chinese authorities under the phrase "residential surveillance at a designated location."

What is "residential surveillance at a designated location"?

It is a coercive measure that allows authorities to hold individuals for up to 6 months, with no access to lawyers and no access to family at all.

Apparently, his research, as well as frequent social media posts about workers' rights, sexual harassment, and the displacement of migrant workers, put him on Beijing's radar.

According to one article, this young man roamed the factory towns of southern China, immersing himself in workers' lives and supporting them while they tried to strike or seek compensation for work injuries.

Even the fact that he is a loyal member of the Communist Party did not save him from officials' ire. One of his friends said that, in the months leading up to his disappearance, Fang had repeatedly been asked to drink tea. "Drink tea" is a code word for being summoned for questioning and harassment by Chinese security services. It has now been 4 months since the last time he was invited to "drink tea," and he has not been seen again. He has been detained because of his advocacy for workers in China—workers, in fact, like 31-year-old Chen Guojian, a gig delivery worker. Gig delivery workers were essential during the pandemic to deliver food, groceries, and other needed items.

While delivering scores of takeout orders a day, Chen would film short videos that showed the dangerous working conditions of the delivery workers, and he used those videos to advocate not just for better pay but for action against powerful Chinese e-commerce companies that benefit from fostering dangerous work conditions. Whether he intended it or not, this man, driving along on his electric scooter, wearing his bright, windproof jacket, became a rarity in China—a labor leader and organizer.

Then, suddenly, last February—almost a year ago—he disappeared. Over the course of the COVID pandemic, a movement for labor rights had begun to grow and gained mainstream traction, and delivery workers like Chen, who were lifelines for untold millions, could be seen outside every apartment building and every office building. There were symbols of this growing movement.

So, in the eyes of the Chinese Government, individuals like Chen had to be stopped—stopped from advocating, in even the smallest way, for any sort of collective effort to improve the condition of Chinese workers. So, almost a year ago, he was detained and given the catchall charge of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble." So many dissidents in China have been detained over the last few years for picking quarrels and provoking trouble because

Chen believed, as he said in one of his videos, that "delivery workers are humans, too, not robots, though the system wants to make us like cogs in a machine." His case is being handled with great secrecy by authorities.

About a month into his detention, friends and supporters began collecting donations to cover his legal fees. They raised about \$20,000, but then the Chinese officials contacted every person who donated, warning them not to help Chen. When the officials visited his parents to deliver a notice of his detention, they demanded his father sign the notice even though it was impossible for his father to read what was on the notice because of several lines being smudged out. So the father had no idea what he was actually acknowledging on that paperwork. Chen, for advocating for improvements in worker conditions, is facing up to 5 years in a Chinese prison.

His status and his future are unclear, but I call on the Chinese Government: Release those you have detained, like this young man who was working to make conditions better for workers in China.

Well, here we are, just 31 days from the start of the Winter Olympics in China—Olympics that the International Olympic Committee says are about a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.

I say to the Chinese Government: Wouldn't it be the right thing to do for human dignity to release individuals who have simply spoken up like these two young men did for their fellow workers?

I say to the International Olympic Committee: Wouldn't it be the right thing for you to call on the Chinese Government to release individuals like these two young men who have simply spoken up to improve the condition of their fellow workers? Wouldn't that be consistent with human dignity?

I will tell you what is not consistent with human dignity, and that is Chinese genocide against the Uighur community, enslaving near a million people. What is not consistent with human dignity is striking down the free press in Hong Kong. The slogan of the Washington Post is, "Democracy Dies in Darkness," and that is the goal of the Chinese Government—to drive a stake through the democratic rights of Hong Kong citizens.

As we approach these games, let us not allow the Chinese Government and the Communist Party to hide their repression behind the glitz and glamour of Olympic Gold. Let's, instead, dedicate ourselves to calling out, time and time again, the oppression the Chinese Government is engaged in and demand justice that delivers human dignity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Iowa.

FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we study about checks and balances in government in political science classes.

Often, people think in terms of the Court, the Supreme Court, primarily, being a check on the Congress of the United States not doing constitutional things or things in a constitutional way or maybe checking a President not doing things that he is constitutionally empowered to do.

We don't often think of Congress being a check on the judicial branch of government, but from time to time we pass legislation that says: To you folks on the Supreme Court making a decision, you didn't make that decision according to what congressional intent was. So we find ourselves passing legislation to overturn some Court case that misinterpreted a statute. At least that is our view that they misinterpreted a statute or congressional intent.

The last time I remember doing this was maybe a couple, 3 years ago on a tax bill. It happened that I had at least one person interpreting our statute correctly on this tax provision. It was Justice Breyer. I got a little note from Justice Breyer, pointing to his dissent in that case, and it said: It is an opportunity for you to pass a statute correcting what, I think, was a misinterpretation by the majority of that tax provision.

And we got that passed.

So here I am again. I don't know how many times in the last 30 years I have had to correct Court decisions misinterpreting the False Claims Act. We are in the process of trying to do that on the subject of whether or not certain actions of our government are material to that case actually being able to be prosecuted. I am talking about the False Claims Act that I and a liberal Member of the House of Representatives got passed in 1986.

The False Claims Act is the government's most powerful tool in fighting and deterring fraud. And I say to my fellow colleagues that any law that has brought in about \$65 billion of fraudulently taken money, that ought to, in itself, prove the worth of this legislation.

On the other hand, the courts interpret it and maybe weaken it, so I am back here to make an argument for strengthening it but not strengthening it beyond the original intent of the Congress of the United States in 1986. I have devoted much of my time in the Senate to strengthening this law on behalf of the taxpayers.

Last November, the Judiciary Committee voted on a bill that I sponsored that was very much a bipartisan co-sponsorship to further strengthen the False Claims Act by clarifying what violations are "material." Some of my colleagues expressed concern with my amendment, even in light of the fact that this legislation has brought \$65 billion of fraudulently taken money back into the Federal Treasury. Most of those concerns by my colleagues were based on debunked, recycled talking points from lobbyists that sound a lot like the ones that I have been hear-

ing since 1986—the purpose of the legislation. Most of the time, they have come from businesses that profit the most from defrauding the government.

When I authored the False Claims Act amendments in 1986, I did it because fraud against the Federal Government was out of control, especially in the defense sector. At the time, the Justice Department estimated that we were losing somewhere between 1 percent to 10 percent of the Federal budget to fraud. Most importantly, I saw that fraud put lives at risk, including those of our military, those of our law enforcement, and even of our veterans. So I am going to speak about some of this fraud that put lives at risk.

Recent court misinterpretations—and these are the misinterpretations that I have talked about already. Recent court misinterpretations have, once again, like several times in the last 25 years, hurt the government's ability to hold these fraudsters accountable by the courts that have made those decisions not following properly legislative intent.

Some courts now say that if the government keeps paying a claim despite some knowledge of potential fraud, then the violation is not material. Now, that is not common sense. If the government knows of fraud—now, think of this: If the government actually knows of fraud but keeps paying for that fraud, then that fraud can't be prosecuted under the False Claims Act.

That doesn't make sense to hard workers on Main Street in the Midwest. It doesn't meet the commonsense test for the government to protect fraudsters. This is wrong, and I want to show you some instances of where it is dangerous.

Today, I want to bring examples to you about real cases with real life experiences, cases where, had this flawed interpretation applied, the results would have been absurd and tragic.

First, in 2009, a major defense contractor settled a False Claims Act case with the Federal Government for \$325 million after allegations arose that they provided faulty parts for spy satellites. Due to the faulty parts, several satellites started to malfunction. One of them was on an important mission over the Middle East during a time of war.

Evidence showed that the contractor knew about the malfunctions but hid—hid—these modifications from the government. But even if the government had some idea about fraud, it couldn't stop payment because the contractor was the only company that could manufacture and support these satellites. Had this case been brought today, a court could incorrectly find that the violation was not material.

This ought to be unacceptable, and it is. This kind of fraud can hurt our troops and damage our national security.

Second example: Fraud hurts our law enforcement officers here at home. In 2018, the Justice Department settled a

fraud claim brought by a whistleblower against a manufacturer of bulletproof vests. According to public records, the manufacturer knew the vests would actually degrade and degrade very quickly under normal heat and humidity. The manufacturer tried to cover its tracks by publishing misleading data.

Those actions delayed the government's efforts to determine the true extent of the damage to these bulletproof vests. After years of investigation, a National Institute of Justice study found that more than 50 percent of the used vests could not stop a bullet—a very life-threatening issue.

In this case, the manufacturer argued that since the government kept paying for the vests, the fact that they didn't work was immaterial. Thankfully, the judge had common sense enough to see past such ridiculous arguments. In other words, common sense prevailed in that particular courtroom.

Now, remember, the actions of these fraudsters put our law enforcement personnel's lives at risk. Now, we had a brave whistleblower. So thanks to that brave whistleblower who uncovered this fraud, the money recovered from the settlement was used to purchase new bulletproof vests.

Third example and last example: Fraud hurts our veterans and undermines the Federal programs Congress created to support them and their families.

Another case involved fraud in home loans insured by the VA. The goal of these loans is to keep veterans in their homes. So, as most veterans know, VA loans prohibit lenders from charging veterans hidden fees. In this instance, a mortgage lender was illegally charging our veterans fees for VA-insured loans.

But the government never ceased payment because doing so would hurt the program and the veterans it was meant to help—not to mention that once a loan guarantee is approved, the VA is prohibited by law from declining payments.

Despite this, the district court applied the bogus new interpretation of materiality. The court dismissed the case. In other words, the fraudsters got away with it, and the court dismissed, saying that the government's continued payment meant the fraud was not material. So the government is allowing a program to go on, pay money out, even if they know there is fraud.

So let me underscore the obvious. I am telling you, Congress didn't intend for courts to find that fleecing veterans for profit is immaterial. The legislation that has come out of the Judiciary Committee will fix this nonsense. And I hope some Republicans—because most of the opposition in the Judiciary Committee came from Republicans. Democrats understand that this bill must pass, but, for some reason, Republicans are willing to accept this nonsense about immateriality.

So that is the purpose of this legislation. It clarifies that the government's

decision to continue paying a claim despite knowledge of fraud is not dispositive if other reasons exist for the continued payment—these simple reasons like everybody expected our government ought to do: to continue protecting our troops, to continue helping our law enforcement officers be safe in their job, and to make sure that a veteran doesn't get taken as a sucker to give away a lot of money that would be illegally taken.

So, as shown by the examples I just gave you, examples I highlighted this very day, the government's decision to continue paying a claim by itself doesn't prove materiality.

You may ask: Why did the government continue the payments? Well, that is pretty much simple common sense too—because you want these programs to function the way they should function.

My amendment will guarantee that the government can hold fraudsters accountable even when the government has to continue payment for a product or a service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

REMEMBERING JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today is an opportunity for me to remind our colleagues of the value of Senator Johnny Isakson. I particularly want to speak this afternoon about his work in regard to our Nation's veterans.

When Senator Isakson retired, resigned from the U.S. Senate, I replaced him as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, but I served the entire time he was the chairman. In fact, I have served the entire time I have been in the Senate and the entire time I have been in the House. And Senator Isakson and Congressman Isakson and I served together in both bodies.

I want to highlight for my colleagues and for Americans—and particularly the veterans across the country—that they had an advocate in Senator Johnny Isakson for them, for our Nation's veterans. He knew—he knew—the debt we owe to our veterans and kept that at the forefront of his mind and his heart as he led the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

His service as chairman was motivated by the stories of veterans who had touched his own life. Senator Isakson regularly spoke about two veterans—two veterans who shaped his approach as chairman: his college friend Jackson Elliott Cox III and Georgia native Noah Harris.

Jackson Cox volunteered to serve in the Marines in Vietnam and was killed

by a sniper a month before he was scheduled to return home. Noah Harris had volunteered to serve in the Army after 9/11 and was killed while serving in Iraq. Both men volunteered to serve their country in the military during times of war, and both men gave their lives in that service.

Senator Isakson was compelled by their service to remember and speak about the men and women who gave their lives to defend our Nation and believed that we must also remember and honor those who made it home.

Senator Isakson was involved in a number of legislative successes that improved how our Nation serves its veterans after they leave the military, and I want to highlight four of those pieces of legislation.

First, the Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act finally gave the VA the tools it needed to hold officials accountable following several scandals at the Department and set the expectation that the VA would maintain a high-performance workforce to serve our veterans.

Second, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 modernized the archaic benefits claims process at the VA and allowed VA to reduce its appeal backlog from nearly half a million appeals down to around 100,000. Veterans now have choices as to how they appeal benefits decisions and can receive timely decisions rather than waiting and waiting and waiting.

Third, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017, which is known as the Forever GI Bill, revolutionized veterans' education benefits by eliminating the 15-year window after service during which a veteran could use those benefits. It also invested in STEM education, IT and technology certification programs, and benefits for surviving families of veterans.

Finally, the VA MISSION Act is legislation I am proud to have championed alongside Senator Isakson. He knew that temporary programs put in place to address the Phoenix wait time scandal needed to be consolidated with existing options for care outside the VA, and I was honored to help him and the rest of Congress see the MISSION Act signed into law to give veterans clear choices on getting the care that best serves their needs.

Senator Isakson also felt a strong connection to veterans of the "greatest generation" who saved the world in World War II. On a visit in Europe, Senator Isakson came across the grave of Roy C. Irwin, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on the very same day that Senator Isakson was born in Georgia. He spoke regularly about the perspective that visit gave him and how he thought about what Roy Irwin and so many others who served had done for him and for all of us.

In his last year as chairman, Senator Isakson led a Senate delegation to commemorate the 75th anniversary of

D-day in Normandy, France. Despite the challenges his health may have posed for such a trip, he knew the importance of showing our World War II veterans and, in fact, the entire world that we remember their sacrifices and that as a nation, we honor the service of that generation and the example they set for generations to come.

Senator Isakson did not just remember the sacrifices of our veterans; he acted whenever he could to see to it that the benefits and services their country offered were delivered in the manner they deserved.

Before Army 1LT Noah Harris was killed in 2005, he and Senator Isakson exchanged letters, and Senator Isakson noted how Noah would always sign his letters "IDWIC," which stood for "I do what I can."

Similarly, Senator Isakson sought to get to yes on solutions instead of just focusing on problems or Senate differences or people's differences. He always worked to do everything he could when someone needed help, and his service to veterans will shine as an example for others—for us—to emulate. We will remember Senator Isakson and the impact he had on our Nation's veterans, and that will be remembered for generations.

Senator Isakson served 6 years in the House and 14 years in the Senate. He died December 19 at age 76. Over two decades of service and certainly over two decades of service to America's veterans.

I want to extend my condolences to Senator Isakson's wife Dianne and his children, Julie, Kevin, and John.

Please know that we are thinking of you all and are praying for you during this challenging and difficult time.

May God bless that family, and may Johnny Isakson rest in peace.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING HARRY REID

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, a week ago, the Senate lost a distinguished former colleague and the State of Nevada lost an unparalleled advocate.

Senator Harry Reid's path to this Chamber was a quintessentially American story. His incredible path from childhood poverty, to the boxing ring, to leading the U.S. Senate took both toughness and tenacity. And in this Chamber, just like everywhere else, Harry left it all in the ring.

As leaders of our respective parties, the two of us disagreed energetically and often. We had sharply different views, goals, and philosophies on everything from public policy to the institution of the Senate itself. But through

all the heat and light, I never doubted that Harry was doing what he earnestly believed was right for Nevada and for the Nation.

Elaine and I were grateful to enjoy a joint friendship with Harry and Landra, the light of Harry's life, his beloved high school sweetheart. The Senate's thoughts and prayers continue to be with her and the entire Reid family.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, on a completely different matter, as the Senate begins this new year and new session, millions of Americans are yet again having life disrupted by a new and surging variant of the coronavirus. Thus far, there is cause for optimism. The rapidly spreading Omicron variant seems to cause milder disease than previous iterations. By now, a huge portion of our population has some immunity through our remarkable safe and effective vaccines or through prior exposure, and our healthcare providers know much more today than they did 2 years ago.

Unfortunately, the last few weeks have also exposed big gaps between the Biden administration's promises and the reality under their leadership. In 2020, then-Candidate Biden promised he would "shut down the virus." That clearly has not happened. Back when the virus had killed 220,000 Americans, then-Candidate Biden said that "anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as President of the United States." Now almost four times that many people have died.

Look, nobody is solely blaming this administration for this mutating virus, but nobody forced Democrats to campaign on those promises and attacks. They chose to do that, but they haven't governed accordingly.

It has been nearly a year since President Biden inherited three vaccines and a distribution operation that was already putting a million shots in a million arms every day. That was before this administration took office. What new solutions do Democrats have to show for a full year in power? Where is their 2021 equivalent to our 2020's Operation Warp Speed? What did they produce in 11 months besides angry speeches about the vaccines they inherited? Why does the pandemic in January 2022 feel so eerily similar to the pandemic in January of 2021, except that this administration happened to get lucky with an apparently less-dangerous variant?

After a year of this administration, families are still having trouble tracking down testing for work, school, travel, or even peace of mind. This administration has limited important treatments. They dragged their heels on promising innovations. They have been inexplicably slow to disburse relief funds for hospitals and providers that Congress set aside ages ago. They have used odd, alienating rhetoric around the vaccines they inherited.

And remember, last spring when our Democratic colleagues spent \$1.9 tril-

lion on a supposedly COVID-related spending bill, only 9 percent of it went to the actual fight against COVID-19—just 9 percent of the \$1.9 trillion authorized last March.

So this all-Democrat government spent its first year distracted, and the country is feeling the consequences.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on a related matter, fortunately for the country, before Christmas, one of those far-left distractions was dealt a setback. The Democrats' wasteful spending last spring helped ignite the worst inflation in 40 years, but our colleagues spent the rest of 2021 trying to assemble yet another even bigger, even more reckless tax-and-spending spree. Their reaction to rising prices and family hardships their policies caused was to try to inflate their way out of inflation.

The experts say that when you strip away the budget gimmick, their proposal would cost almost \$5 trillion. And all of that reckless borrowing and money-printing was for far-left policies that would hurt American families and actually help China.

The supposedly "green" subsidies would just dump money in China-dominated supply chains. America takes on massive debt to "Build Back Beijing."

The childcare plan was actually an unworkable and discriminatory toddler takeover that would drive up daycare costs and let woke bureaucrats drive out faith-based providers. They even wanted to distort American parents' child tax credit and turn it into an old-school cash welfare program with no work requirements at all—now, all of this paired with historic, crushing tax hikes and trillions more dollars to make inflation even worse.

It was a merrier Christmas for American families because this awful bill was actually put aside. Working Americans need it to actually stay on the shelf.

VOTING

Mr. President, on one final matter, when our colleagues' reckless taxing-and-spending spree began to falter, some Democrats started saying a totally different issue was actually really their top priority. If they don't get to blow \$5 trillion on low-quality socialism, our colleagues are now demanding a consolation prize: breaking the Senate's rules in order to give themselves sweeping control over all 50 States' election laws.

This is what some of our colleagues want so desperately. This is what they have sought for years. Even as their pretexts and justifications kept shifting, the goal stayed consistent. Most Washington Democrats want to appoint themselves a nationwide board of elections on steroids, and they want to shatter the Senate's rules and traditions to make it happen.

After Democrats lost the White House in 2016, they said this takeover was necessary because our democracy was fundamentally broken. Now that they have won the White House, the

story has totally flipped. Now our democracy is in perfect shape, beyond reproach—except when States that Democrats don't control dare to pass mainstream voting laws.

The political left keeps pitching their big lie that mainstream State voting laws are somehow "Jim Crow 2.0" if the Governor who signs the bill happens to be a Republican. The left's big lie insults the intelligence of the American people. All the facts disprove it. In one of the States that triggered this meltdown, the new profiles mandated more days—more days—of early voting than many Democrat-run States provide today.

Our democracy is not in crisis. Repeating this rhetoric doesn't make it factual. The 2020 elections saw the highest turnout in more than 100 years. Only 33 percent of American adults think it is too hard for eligible voters to vote. A larger share actually think current rules aren't strict enough. This is fake—fake—hysteria ginned up by partisans, and our citizens actually know it. They figured it out. Last November, even in New York, the State's overwhelmingly Democratic voters rejected several left-wing ballot measures to change voting laws.

This big lie that democracy is dying because Democrats sometimes lose elections is a completely astro-turfed sense of crisis. The emperor has no clothes.

It is even more ironic that on this most sensitive subject—our democracy itself—some Senate Democrats want to drop a procedural nuclear bomb on the Senate itself to get their way. Our colleagues have no principled opposition to the filibuster—none at all. This is not about principle.

In 2020 alone, Senate Democrats used the filibuster repeatedly to block the CARES Act, delaying help at the start of the pandemic. They used it to kill Senator TIM SCOTT's police reform bill.

In 2017, 32 Senate Democrats, including then-Senator HARRIS, signed an open letter insisting the legislative filibuster should not change. A few years before that, the current Democratic leader said this about the prospect of nuking the filibuster. This is from the current Democratic leader:

The ideologues in the Senate want to turn what the Founding Fathers called the "cooling saucer of democracy" into the rubberstamp of dictatorship.

He went on:

They believe if you get 51 percent of the vote, there should be one party rule.

He went on:

They want to make this country into a banana republic where if you don't get your way, you change the rules.

He went on:

It will be a doomsday for democracy if we do.

That is the Senate Democratic leader on the possibility of nuking the Senate. Some people's tunes change when they happen to be in the majority versus the minority, but some Senators

mean what they say. There are Senators on both sides of the aisle who have had the courage to stand up for these important rules when we have been in the minority and when we have been in the majority. I don't have to remind the Senate that the previous President frequently harangued me to nuke the Senate. On every occasion, I had a one-word answer: No. No.

There are Senators on both sides who understand that any supposedly limited "carve-out" would bring the whole house crashing down. There are Senators on both sides who understand that the entirety of Federal law shouldn't go radically boomeranging back and forth every time the Senate narrowly changes hands.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior legislative assistant clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DR. JERALD F. COMBS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in eastern Kentucky, one man has been at the center of efforts to expand eye care for nearly 40 years. Dr. Jerald Combs, who passed away last month, played an instrumental role in modernizing and extending access to optometric care across Kentucky's Appalachian region. Today, I recognize Dr. Combs as an outstanding Kentuckian whose work made a vast impact on the lives of his patients.

When Dr. Combs began his practice in Martin, KY, in 1983, optometry in eastern Kentucky was an underdeveloped practice. Many residents lacked access to the eye care they needed, leaving far too many without good vision. Dr. Combs made it his mission to change that status quo and improved many lives in the process. His clinic served the entire eastern Kentucky region, attracting patients from far and wide who needed his care.

Perhaps Dr. Combs' greatest legacy will be his efforts to increase optometry training opportunities in his community. Because of his work in this area, the University of Pikeville named their college of optometry in his honor. The school's Jerald F. Combs Endowed

Scholarship gives students of all backgrounds the ability to study the subject, providing expertise to those who will stay in eastern Kentucky and help develop the field further.

Throughout his life, Dr. Combs was committed to serving his community and our Commonwealth and earned many awards for his efforts. The Kentucky Optometric Association lavished him with praise, granting him both their Optometrist of the Year Award and Distinguished Service Award twice. He also served as president and a board member of the association for many years. Outside of optometry, Dr. Combs helped his community through the Knott County Youth Foundation, the Knott County Little League, the Kiwanis Club, and the Hazard Lions Club. He served on the University of Pikeville Board of Trustees, steering the school to success.

I knew Dr. Combs personally and was saddened to learn of his passing last month. Few Kentuckians play as big or instrumental of a role in their community as he did. While we all mourn his loss, we can also be confident that his legacy, expanded access to eye care among Kentucky's most vulnerable communities, will last for many years into the future. I would like to express my personal gratitude for Dr. Combs' decades of service to the Commonwealth and encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in sharing condolences with the family, friends, and colleagues.

RECOGNIZING OWENSBORO, THE "BLUEGRASS CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, few Kentucky creations have had as much impact on American culture as Bluegrass music. It is the spring from which all other country music flows and one of our State's most world-renowned exports. Owensboro, KY, has played an important role in maintaining and promoting Bluegrass history, style, and heritage and, in recognition of that work, was recently named the Bluegrass Capital of the World. Today, I honor Owensboro for earning this title and helping preserve Kentucky's proud Bluegrass culture.

Owensboro's deep connection to Bluegrass music dates back to the genre's earliest days. Bill Monroe, widely recognized as the "Father of Bluegrass", was born just outside Owensboro in Ohio County, KY. His musical group, the Blue Grass Boys, adapted the unique style of music they found in Scotch-Irish communities in Kentucky's Appalachian foothills and popularized it for a mainstream audience. Listeners, entranced by Blue Grass Boys' soaring melodies, jaunty rhythm, and homespun style, started a craze for Bluegrass music that brought national fame to generations of Kentucky artists.

Owensboro's leaders have recognized their unique role in Bluegrass history

and sought to capitalize on that connection. City officials ushered in the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum in downtown Owensboro in 1991, inviting both tourists and locals to learn about and enjoy Bluegrass history. The city's annual "River of Music Party", or ROMP, welcomes more than 20,000 visitors to the banks of the Ohio River to celebrate Bluegrass artists and help sustain this proud Kentucky tradition. And just recently, Owensboro Mayor Tom Watson signed the official proclamation naming his city the Bluegrass Capital of the World, cementing Owensboro's important place in Bluegrass history.

Owensboro's leaders have also initiated a strong campaign to educate and popularize Bluegrass among the next generation of Kentuckians. The Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum features rotating exhibits highlighting key parts of Bluegrass history and hosts artists that promote the genre. The museum offers lessons in musical instruments like the mandolin, banjo, and fiddle, helping ensure the survival of their unique sounds and style. The museum's Bluegrass in the Schools program has introduced Bluegrass music to nearly 10,000 elementary students, including in 24 Owensboro-area schools, connecting young Kentuckians with their State's culture and history.

Bluegrass music is the soundtrack of Kentucky. From the first pluck of the banjo, strum of the guitar, or drone of the fiddle, the genre is immediately recognizable. Owensboro's leaders have done incredible, extensive work to preserve and promote this unique Kentucky music and are incredibly deserving of their city's recent designation as Bluegrass Capital of the World.

Mr. President, the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer highlighted the city's new title in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer,
Nov. 24, 2021]

BLUEGRASS CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

The City of Owensboro has officially been designated the "Bluegrass Capital of the World" after more than a year of effort by the city and the Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum.

Mayor Tom Watson officially signed the proclamation permanently linking Owensboro and bluegrass music during a Nov. 12 ceremony at the Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum.

"About 15 months ago we started talking about this idea, and it has taken a little while to get it to this point, but we are here today to declare the City of Owensboro as the Bluegrass Music Capital of the World," Watson said during the event.

Watson called Chris Joslin, museum executive director, to the stage and asked him to turn around so he could officially sign the proclamation on his back, telling him, "a lot of this is going to be on your back."

"The idea is to create a sustainable structure and utilize our bluegrass music presence to build out economic development opportunities and increase tourism," Watson said.

"In short, attract new businesses that manufacture or provide services that are consumed outside our community connected to bluegrass music and attract people to Owensboro, the epicenter of bluegrass music."

Joslin said Owensboro began celebrating its bluegrass heritage during the early 1980s, when a concert series was formed pairing bluegrass artists with the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra.

"I think it demonstrated that bluegrass music could be a differentiator for this community, creating something unique, creating something that no other community has," he said.

Joslin said the opening of the Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum at 311 West 2nd St. in Owensboro in 2018 signaled to the world that the organization means business and is part of an economic strategy that begins with cultural tourism, and can grow as more and more people and industry related to the music industry comes to the city.

"I have said before that I believe that most communities like ours, they want to be known for something," Joslin said. "Something that matters, something that is authentic and compelling, something that has a positive, tangible impact on their community. I can tell you that if the news of that something extends beyond the city limits and the county line, well there is opportunity there, and opportunity attracts people, it attracts investment."

"Friends, I can tell you that this is our time, this is our opportunity, and we are claiming it today as the Bluegrass Music Capital of the World."

Mike Simpson, chairman of the International Bluegrass Music Association, provided a brief history of the bluegrass musical genre.

"The odyssey of this original American art form started right down the road here in Ohio County, and much of its history can be traced right here to Owensboro, Kentucky," Simpson said.

Simpson cited early bluegrass musicians Arnold Schultz, Pendleton Vandiver and his grandfather, Cleveland Baize, as forging a music combining Irish, Scottish and blues music.

"Pendleton Vandiver had a nephew by the name of William Smith Monroe that listened to that music, and he and his brothers, Charlie and Birch, they left Ohio County and they took it to the world," Simpson said. "In 1936 they signed a record deal with RCA Victor, and soon the bluegrass music was being spread across radio airwaves across this country."

Simpson said in 1945, bluegrass came to the Grand Ole Opry at Nashville's famed Ryman Auditorium when Chubby Wise, Howard Watts, Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs stepped onto the stage.

"That was bluegrass' sonic boom," Simpson said.

Today, bluegrass is a celebrated part of Owensboro's culture. With the only dedicated Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum, the annual ROMP Festival attracting 25,000 annually to enjoy bluegrass and roots music, as well as bluegrass-themed media being created in Owensboro, it has become ingrained in the city's culture.

Simpson said Owensboro being officially known and celebrated as the "Bluegrass Capital of the World" was "a long time coming."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 453, David L.

Cohen, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 454, Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 521, Jonathan Eric Kaplan, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 617, Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 621, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 623, Michael M. Adler, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

REMEMBERING ANDREW FRANKLIN ALEXANDER

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator BLACKBURN, I ask unanimous consent that the following remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to further honor the life of Andrew Franklin Alexander, the late son of former Tennessee U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HONORING ANDREW FRANKLIN ALEXANDER

Andrew Franklin Alexander, age 52, passed away December 31, 2021 after a short illness. Drew was born in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1969. He moved with his family to Nashville, TN when he was one year old. He attended Ensforth School, became a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and graduated from University School of Nashville. He then attended Kenyon College in Ohio where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music. In 1994 he went to work for Curb Records in Nashville as a receptionist. Quickly he rose to lead the company's publishing division. As Vice President of Pub-

lishing, he oversaw the division's forty-five employees and songwriters. A classically trained guitarist, Drew also directed creative and administrative aspects of the company where he set budgets, signed songwriters, negotiated contracts, placed songs, and acquired catalogs.

During his tenure Curb Music Publishing earned eighty-seven ASCAP, BMI and SESAC performance awards, and set records for the fastest rising country single and the longest charting country single in Billboard Country chart history. In 2017, after 23 years at Curb, Drew stepped down from his role as Director of Publishing but continued working with the Mike Curb Foundation. Drew also founded his own company, Blair Branch Music. He became an active community volunteer working with numerous Nashville agencies including Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville Rescue Mission, and Room at the Inn. Drew's motto was "give more than you take". When he wasn't on the phone raising money for the needy he often could be found serving lunch at homeless shelters.

Drew served on the boards of The Recording Academy, Belmont School of Music, Family and Children's Service, the Community Resource Center, Leadership Music as Treasurer, and the Tennessee Residence Foundation as Secretary. He was a member of the Country Music Association, the Gospel Music Association, Academy of Country Music, and the Downtown Nashville Rotary Club.

Drew helped many artists and songwriters get their start in Nashville and had many friends in the music industry. Over the years he hosted small groups of songwriters and artists, including Lee Brice, Bill Anderson, Kyle Jacobs, Billy Montana, Kelsea Ballerini and many others, at writing retreats at his family's home at Blackberry Farm in East Tennessee, at Evins Mill in Middle Tennessee, and at Bending Lake in Canada. From these dozens of sessions came more than 1,000 songs including many hits. Drew was active with the National Songwriters Association defending songwriters' legal rights.

Drew loved his daughters, his friends and watching sports with them all, especially the Tennessee Titans and University of Tennessee basketball and football—and he loved to fish, traveling around the world in pursuit of new adventures. Drew is survived by two daughters, Lauren Blair Alexander and Helen Victoria Alexander of Nashville; his parents, Honey and Lamar Alexander of Walland, TN; two sisters, Leslee Alexander of Maryville, TN and Kathryn Alexander of Briarcliff Manor, NY; his brother, Will Alexander of Nashville; and, seven nieces and nephews. The Alexander family wishes to express our thanks to Drew's friends Bruce Phillips and Hal Hardin for their many kindnesses to him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOHN VICTOR AMROL, JR.

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to pay tribute to John Victor Amrol, Jr., a long-time New Hampshire resident, State employee, and labor advocate who passed away recently at the age of 85. Born in our State capital of Concord, John was in many ways a quintessential Granite Stater. He had a warm personality, an exceptional work ethic, and a passion

for service that enriched his community and improved the quality of life for so many across our great State.

After graduating from nearby St. John's High School in 1953, John took a job with the State of New Hampshire in our department of transportation, DOT. It was the start of a 44-year career in highway road design. Throughout his long tenure with DOT, John played a role in ensuring that our roadways were developed in a safe and efficient manner. He also served his community and State as a member of the Army National Guard from 1953 to 1978. He retired as a master sergeant, and he was a proud member of American Legion Post 21 for 26 years.

John achieved so much with the department of transportation; yet as a longtime member of the State Employees Association (SEA)/Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1984 and its president from 1991–2000, his true impact transcends all that he accomplished in his decades of work with the DOT. John was a pillar of the SEA/SEIU, serving on nearly every committee and always diving deep into the issues that affected working people and their families. The union represents a wide range of occupations in the public and private sector workforce that provides critical services to our State. Each and every member owes a debt of gratitude to John. He was a force in fighting for their well-being, dignity, and fair treatment. As a negotiator, John was as tough as New Hampshire granite. In fact, his wisdom and judgment at the negotiating table earned him the nickname “The Father of Collective Bargaining for State Employees” among his SEA colleagues. They also paid tribute to John by dedicating their office building on North State Street in Concord in his name.

John was the president of SEA/SEIU Local 1984 when I was elected Governor. We shared a vision of a strong, secure middle class in New Hampshire where hard-working Granite Staters get a fair shot and their fair share, and we knew that unions play an important role in achieving that vision. I could always count on him for a fair, honest, and informed assessment of labor issues.

The Granite State and the many people John served are grateful for his many gifts and powerful advocacy. In the last couple of weeks, family and friends have gathered to share and cherish their many fond memories of him. I am with them in spirit as they reflect on the life of this good and generous man.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT ON JANUARY 3, 2022

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 24. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1605. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1664. An act to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3537. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bills were signed on December 23, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 23, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1605. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3438. A bill to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3439. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations modifying labeling requirements for beef and beef food products; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3440. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit the Federal Government from limiting State access to key therapies, such as monoclonal antibodies, and from prioritizing Federal contracts over State contracts relating to purchasing supplies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 176

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to require a longitudinal study on the impact of COVID-19.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1675, a bill to improve maternal health.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report examining the feasibility of funding the Universal Service Fund through contributions supplied by edge providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2533

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2533, a bill to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2716

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from

New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2716, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 3395

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3395, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to records and other information inspections.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Wednesday, January 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Witkowski nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:56 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate Monday, January 3, 2022:

THE JUDICIARY

TOVAH R. CALDERON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE KATHRYN A. OBERLY, RETIRED.
ADRIENNE JENNINGS NOTI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE FREDERICK HOWARD WEISBERG, RETIRED.

BRIDGET MEHEAN BRENNAN, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE DAN A. POLSTER, RETIRED.

VICTORIA MARIE CALVERT, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE THOMAS W. THRASH, JR., RETIRED.

GEORGETTE CASTNER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE JOSE L. LINARES, RETIRED.

JOHN H. CHUN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE JAMES L. ROBERT, RETIRED.

JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE WILLIAM HASKELL ALSUP, RETIRED.

CHARLES ESQUE FLEMING, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE JAMES S. GWIN, RETIRED.

SARAH ELISABETH GERAGHTY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE AMY TOTENBERG, RETIRED.
DALE E. HO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE KATHERINE B. FORREST, RESIGNED.

ANDRE B. MATHIS, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE BERNICE BOUIE DONALD, RETIRING.

RUTH BERMUDEZ MONTENEGRO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE JOHN A. HOUSTON, RETIRED.

ALISON J. NATHAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE ROSEMARY S. POOLER, RETIRING.

JULIE REBECCA RUBIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE ELLEN LIPTON HOLLANDER, RETIRING.

DAVID AUGUSTIN RUIZ, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE SOLOMON OLIVER, JR., RETIRED.

CRISTINA D. SILVA, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE JAMES C. MAHAN, RETIRED.

LEONARD PHILIP STARK, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT, VICE KATHLEEN M. O'MALLEY, RETIRING.

CHARLOTTE N. SWEENEY, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE RICHARD BROOKE JACKSON, RETIRING.

TRINA L. THOMPSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE PHYLLIS J. HAMILTON, RETIRED.

ANNE RACHEL TRAUM, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE ROBERT CLIVE JONES, RETIRED.

HERNAN D. VERA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE MARGARET M. MORROW, RETIRED.

Executive nominations received by the Senate Tuesday, January 4, 2022:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

CHRISTY GOLDSMITH ROMERO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2024, VICE HEATH P. TARBERT.

KRISTIN N. JOHNSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2025, VICE BRIAN D. QUINTENZ, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BRENDA SUE FULTON, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JAMES N. STEWART.

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

GLEN S. FUKUSHIMA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024, VICE SHARON Y. BOWEN, TERM EXPIRED.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, OF OHIO, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2025, VICE WANDA FELTON, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

SANDRA L. THOMPSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DAVID UEJIO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE ANNA MARIA FARIAS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ARUN VENKATARAMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE, VICE IAN PAUL STEFF.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ELIZABETH DE LEON BHARGAVA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE JOHN BOBBITT.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

JEROME H. POWELL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JULIA RUTH GORDON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE DANA T. WADE.

SOLOMON JEFFREY GREENE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SETH DANIEL APPLETON, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

TODD M. HARPER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 10, 2027. (REAPPOINTMENT)

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

OWEN EDWARD HERRNSTADT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2025, VICE JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JAMES ARTHUR JEMISON II, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE ROBERT HUNTER KURTZ.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

RETA JO LEWIS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2025, VICE KIMBERLY A. REED, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

LAEL BRAINARD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RICHARD CLARIDA.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

SAMUEL H. SLATER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2023, VICE WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MOHSIN RAZA SYED, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE ADAM J. SULLIVAN.

VICTORIA MARIE BAECHER WASSMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE JOHN E. KRAMER.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

VIVAR AHMAD, OF TEXAS, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, VICE THOMAS F. GILMAN.

VIVAR AHMAD, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE THOMAS F. GILMAN.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

SEAN BURTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2024, VICE NINA MITCHELL WELLS, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

GIGI B. SOHN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2021, VICE AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MAX VEKICH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026, VICE MICHAEL A. KHOURI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JED DAVID KOLKO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, VICE KAREN DUNN KELLEY.

GRANT T. HARRIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE NAZAKHTAR NIKAKHTAR.

JAINIEY KUMAR BAVISHI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE TIMOTHY GALLAUDET.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

ALVARO M. BEDOYA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, VICE ROHIT CHOPRA, TERM EXPIRED.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

MARY T. BOYLE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018, VICE ANN MARIE BUERKLE, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STEVEN SCOTT CLIFF, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARK R. ROSEKIND.

CHRISTOPHER A. COES, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE CARLOS A. MONJE, JR.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LAURIE E. LOCASCIO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, VICE WALTER G. COPAN.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CAROL ANNETTE PETSONK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE JOEL SZABAT.

ANN CLAIRE PHILLIPS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARK H. BUZZY.

ROBERT CORNELIUS HAMPSHIRE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MARIA DUARTE ROBINSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY), VICE BRUCE J. WALKER.

SHALANDA H. BAKER, OF TEXAS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY ECONOMIC IMPACT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE JAMES EDWARD CAMPOS.

ASMERET ASEFAW BERHE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE CHRISTOPHER FALL.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SARA C. BRONIN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025, VICE AIMEE KATHRYN JORJANI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LAURA DANIEL-DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE JOSEPH BALASH, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JOSEPH F. DECAROLIS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, VICE LINDA CAPUANO.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DAVID M. UHLMANN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE SUSAN PARKER BODINE.

CARLTON WATERHOUSE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER C. WRIGHT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MARTHA WILLIAMS, OF MONTANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, VICE AURELIA SKIPWITH.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. MICHELLE MOORE, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2026, VICE JAMES R. THOMPSON III.

KIMBERLY CAUDLE LEWIS, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2025, VICE RICHARD CAPEL HOWORTH, TERM EXPIRED.

ROBERT P. KLEIN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2026, VICE JOHN L. RYDER, TERM EXPIRED.

BETH PRITCHARD GEER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2026, VICE KENNETH E. ALLEN, TERM EXPIRED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

HENRY CHRISTOPHER FREY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PAUL T. ANASTAS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MALLORY A. STEWART, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE), VICE YLEEM D.S. POBLETE, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TAMARA COFMAN WITTES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MICHAEL T. HARVEY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARI CARMEN APONTE, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA

AMANDA BENNETT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, VICE MICHAEL PACK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

SARAH MARGON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, VICE ROBERT A. DESTRO.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MONDE MUYANGWA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE RAMSEY COATS DAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN N. NKENGASONG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, COORDINATOR OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS GLOBALLY.

DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT, OF GEORGIA, TO BE SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. (NEW POSITION)

BARBARA A. LEAF, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS), VICE DAVID SCHENKER.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

ADRIANA DEBORA KUGLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE JENNIFER D. NORDQUIST.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

C.S. ELIOT KANG, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NON-PROLIFERATION), VICE CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY FORD.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

LAURA S.H. HOLGATE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMY GUTMANN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

GEETA RAO GUPTA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES, VICE KELLEY ECKELS CURRIE.

ERIC M. GARCETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

STEVEN H. FAGIN, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SHIRLEY SACHI SAGAWA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2024, VICE JANE D. HARTLEY, TERM EXPIRED.

ALVIN HARLYN WARREN, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2023, VICE HYPEIN CHRISTINE IM, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ELIZABETH SCHOFF WATSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE KATHERINE BRUNETT MCGUIRE, RESIGNED.

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MILDRED OTERO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 11, 2026, VICE GWENDOLYN E. BOYD, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

PIONA WHELAN PRINE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, VICE DIANE HELEN RODRIGUEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

BARBARA GEORGE JOHNSON, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING FEBRUARY 4, 2026, VICE MARIA E. RENGIFO-RUESS, TERM EXPIRED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CYNTHIA C. HOGAN, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING FEBRUARY 8, 2024, VICE LISA M. QUIROZ, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

BEVERLY GAGE, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024, VICE DANIEL IWAO OKIMOTO, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

LINDA A. PUCHALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

JAVIER RAMIREZ, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR, VICE RICHARD GIACOLONE.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE JOHN P. PALLASCH.

DAVID WEIL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE CHERYL MARIE STANTON.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROBERT MCKINNON CALIFF, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE STEPHEN HAHN.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AMY LOYD, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE SCOTT STUMP.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LISA M. GOMEZ, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE PRESTON RUTLEDGE.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

SUSAN HARTHILL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2027, VICE JAMES J. SULLIVAN, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

KURT THOMAS RUMSFELD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE JULIA AKINS CLARK, TERM EXPIRED.

ERNEST W. DUBESTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

CATHY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD, VICE SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN.

CATHY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2028, VICE ANNE MARIE WAGNER, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2025, VICE JAMES THOMAS ABBOTT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ED GONZALEZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE SARAH R. SALDANA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

LAUREL A. BLATCHFORD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CONTROLLER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE DAVID ARTHUR MADER.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

ANDREW FOIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE PAUL R. VERKUIL, RESIGNED.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DILAWAR SYED, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE ALTHEA COETZEE.